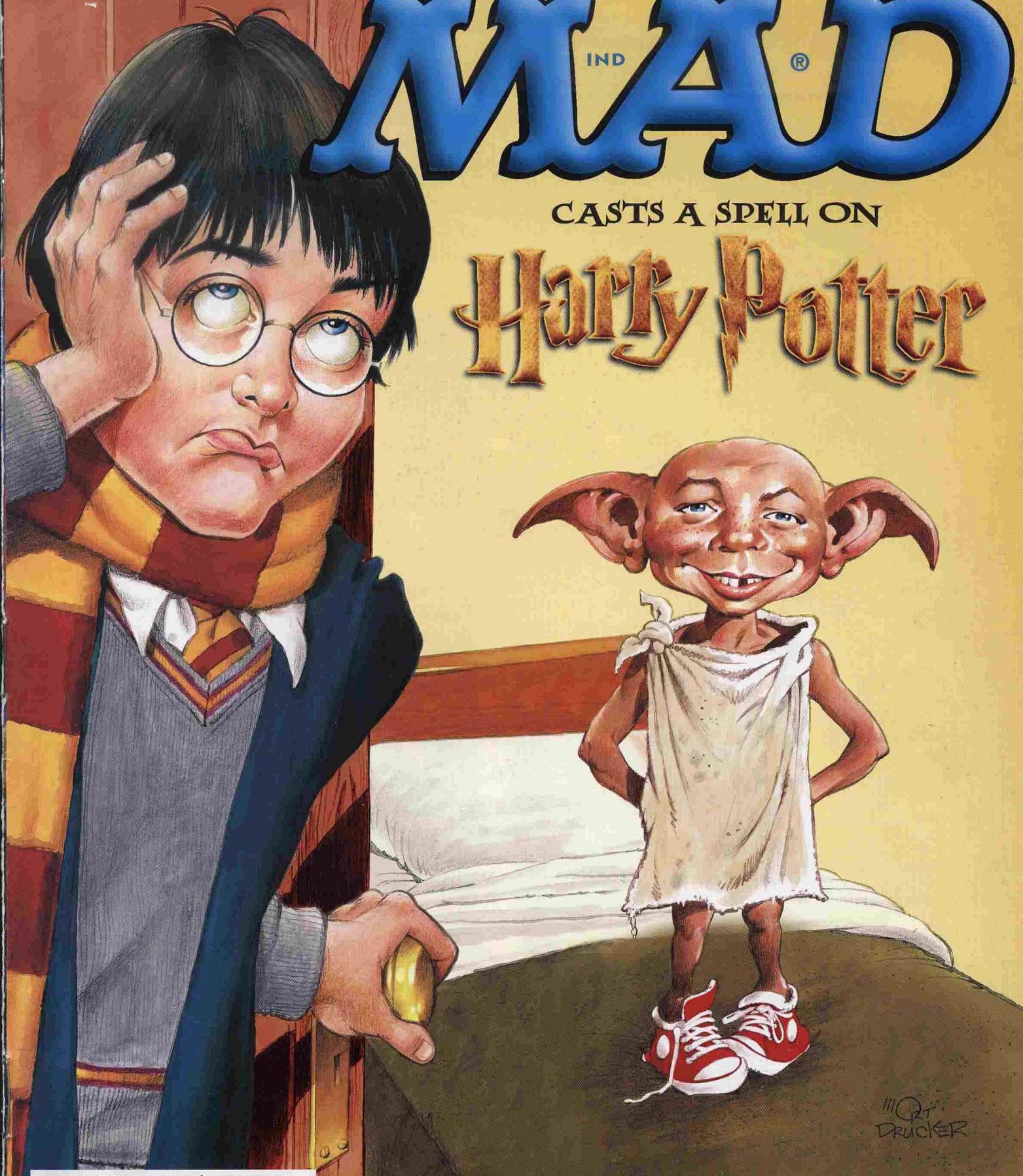


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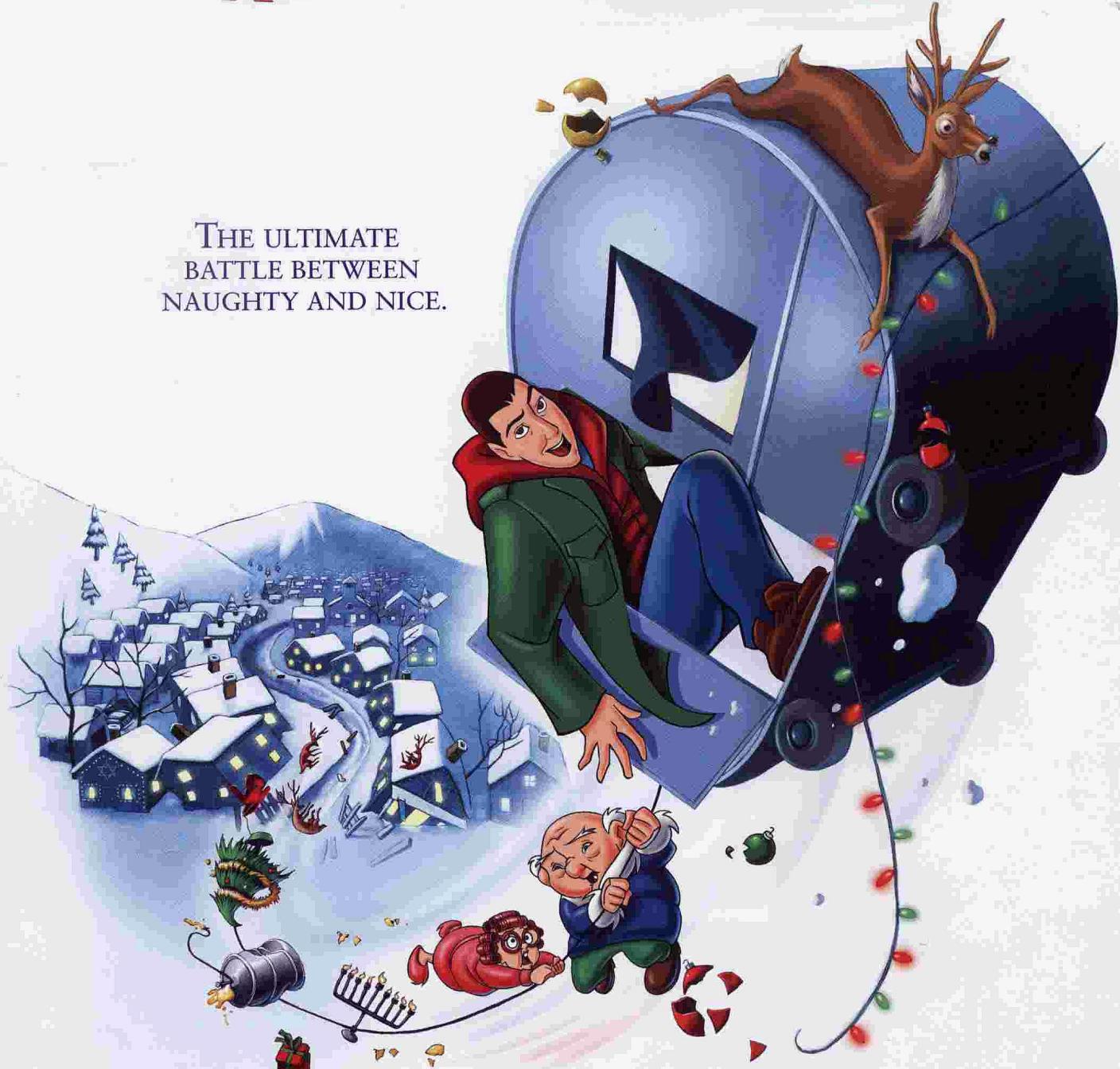
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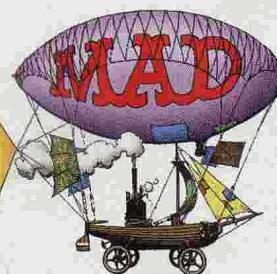
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DECEMBER 2002

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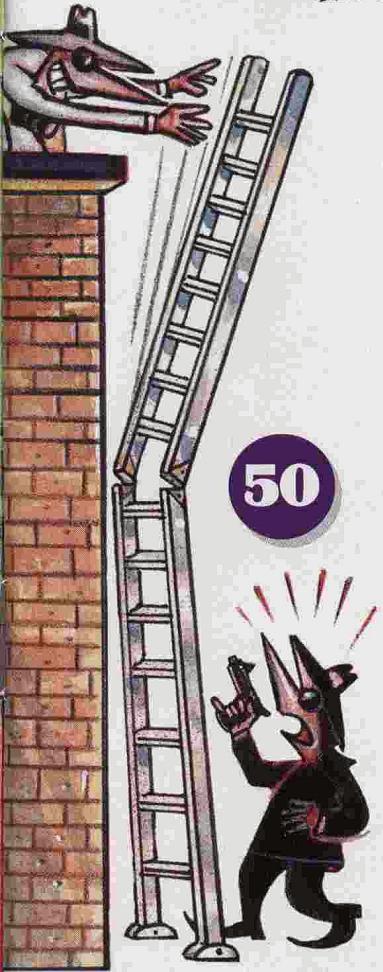
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Inside front cover

Just because you put your foot down doesn't mean it won't end up in your mouth!



50



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DECEMBER 2002

NUMBER 424

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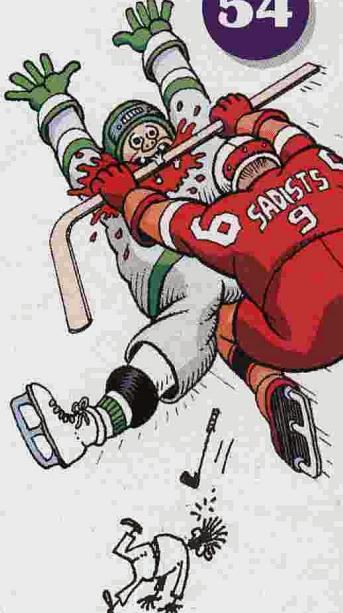
Various Places Around the Magazine

"GULF WARS" POSTER:  
ARTIST: SCOTT BRICHER PHOTOS: AP/WIDE WORLD PHOTOS  
WRITERS: ARIE KAPLAN AND SCOTT SONNEBORN

FRONT COVER ARTIST:  
MORT DRUCKER



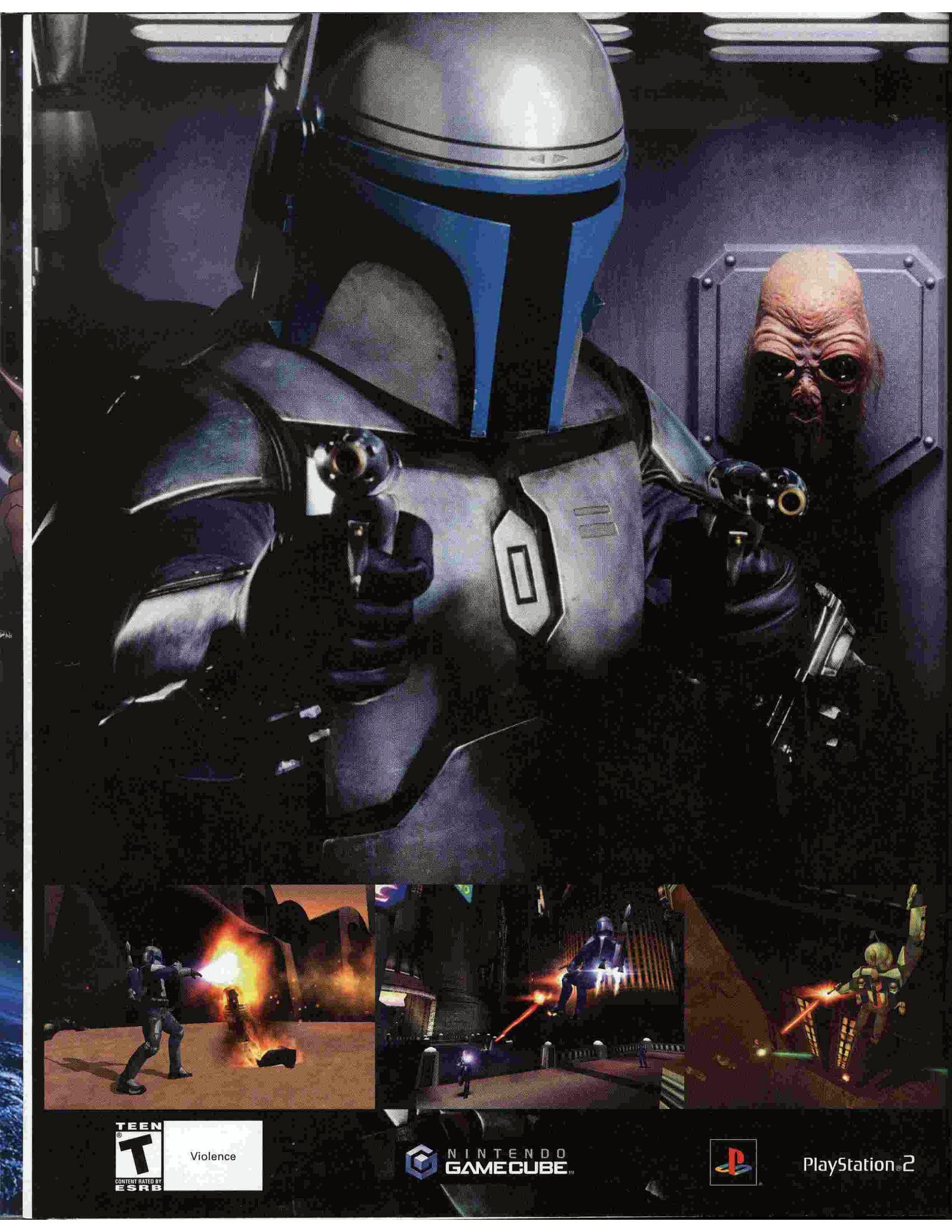
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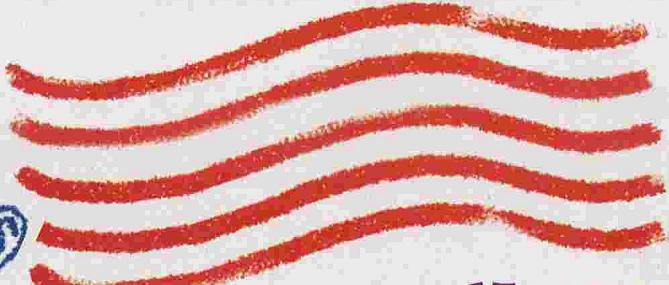


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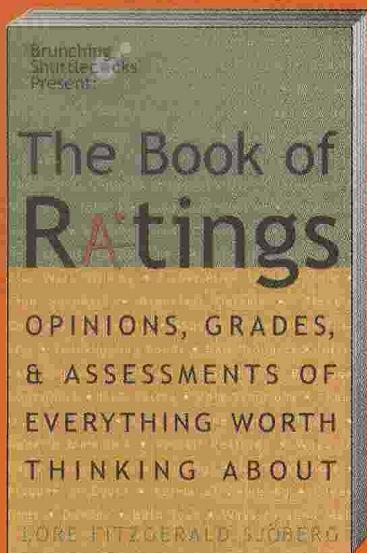
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# funny new stuff

from Three Rivers Press

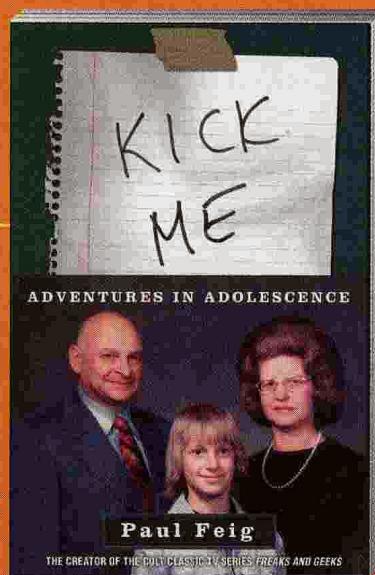


You want judgmental? *Here's judgmental!*

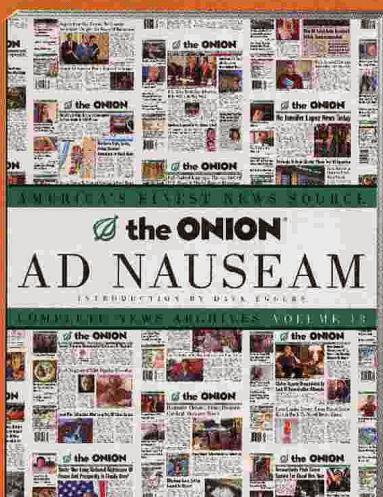
Do you walk around snidely rating everything in your path? Teachers, TV shows, supermodels? Of course you do! But Lore Sjöberg has elevated this to an art, attaching letter grades to everything in sight, from breakfast cereals and Monopoly tokens to pizza toppings and plagues of Egypt. *The Book of Ratings* is hilariously arbitrary and undeniably compelling.

## Confessions from the guy who created *Freaks and Geeks*

Ah, public school . . . dodgeball bombardments, hellish bus rides, insulting nicknames, ill-fated prom dates, and other highlights of an education in humiliation. Paul Feig recalls it all in side-splitting, cringe-inducing detail.



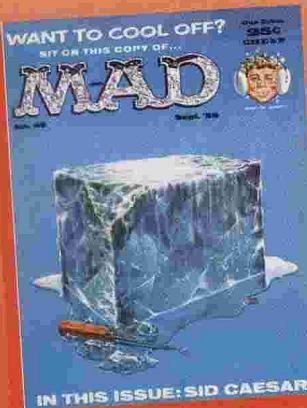
ADVENTURES IN ADOLESCENCE  
Paul Feig  
THE CREATOR OF THE PULIC CLASSIC TV SERIES *FREAKS AND GEEKS*



## All the news that's fit to reprint

Onion fans rejoice! *The Onion Ad Nauseam* features everything published during *The Onion*'s thirteenth year: every news story, opinion piece, news in brief, horoscope . . . every hilarious word that appeared between October 2000 and October 2001. Includes loads of material no longer available online or anywhere else.

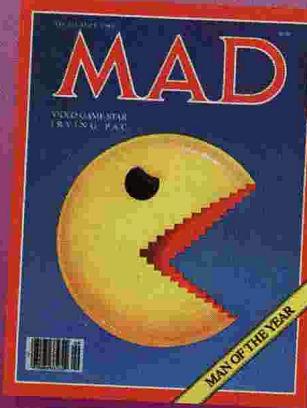
We asked readers to send a note telling us when they started subscribing to MAD and/or when they began reading it, in celebration of our 50th anniversary. We received so many responses we're only able to present a small sampling of them! Part one appeared in last month's issue. Without further ado, we present part two. Thanks to everyone for sharing their memories with us!



I remember buying my first issue on a trip with my family to Des Moines. It was issue #49 and the year was 1959. — Lee Polikov, Bellevue, NB

I have been collecting MAD for 23 years (I'm 33). The very first time I laid my eyes on a issue, I decided to start collecting. — Noel Butchart, Chapin, SC

I first subscribed shortly after the magazine changed its format from that of a comic book. My late wife and I would fight over who got to read the magazine first when it arrived. — Richard Bridgeman, Newark, CA



I have been buying your magazine since I was seven years old. September, 1982 was the first issue I bought. — Bryan Steward, via e-mail

I believe I started my subscription with you the first years you accepted subscriptions in the 1960s. I had MAD #1, bought from a local newsstand when I was 15. My subscription has moved around substantially. I was in the military, so it has gone to California, Kentucky, Ohio, Washington, D.C., Paris, etc. — John B. Catiller, via e-mail

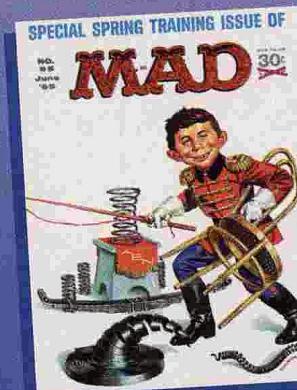
I've been a subscriber for the last 12 years, but I haven't missed an issue since 1972, I was ten years old at the time.

— Frances Davies, Ontario, Canada



I have been a subscriber since #129, September, 1969. MAD has always been an important magazine to me, as nowhere else am I able to obtain such a clear definition of pop culture. In other words, even at the ripe old age of 47, I can keep up with the teenagers and twenty-somethings of today because by reading MAD, I'll be wise to their ways. — Daniel Lovegren, Elk Grove, CA

I doubt I am the longest subscriber in Utah, but I have been a subscriber since I was 14 so I guess that makes 15 years! My sister asks me every year what I want for Christmas, I tell her "renew MAD!" — Chris Horne, Murray, UT



My first issue was #89, September, 1964. I finally got up enough nerve to fill out the subscription card and it began with #95, June, 1965. There is no doubt that my sense of humor and general outlook on life has been greatly shaped by MAD. I can still remember on Yom Kippur 1965 after returning from temple, I was set for a long boring day. However, my MAD arrived in the mail that day (#99, December, 1965) and I was ecstatic. — Hal J. Freeman, Scarsdale, NY

"THE AMITYVILLE HORROR" AND "THE WHITE SHADOW" DAVE BERG MARTIN  
"THE CONCORDE - AIRPORT '73" AND THE USUAL GANG OF IDIOTS ARE ALL IN THIS ISSUE OF MAD

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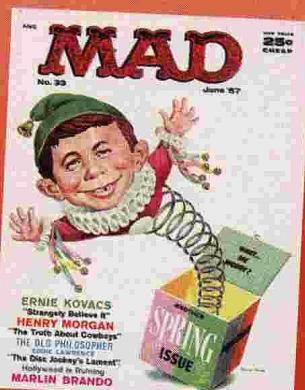
My first subscribed issue was #214, April, 1980. With 23 years of MADs in my possession, I'm probably one of Colorado's longest subscribers.

— Jere Barto, via e-mail

I have been subscribing to MAD for over 40 years. I was a subscriber in 1960. I am 52 years old and I spent 22 years in the army. When my eight issues a year came, I would always have to read it quickly so that it could be passed around the company. Sometimes I never saw it again.

— Larry Schwab, Phoenix, AZ

I subscribed in the early 50s, when it was a comic book. In the middle of my subscription you switched to a magazine format. You did not give me credit for a one-year subscription paid; since the new price was higher, you cut it short. — Tom Reesor, Conway, SC



I actually purchased MAD #24 and began subscribing with issue #33. — Dick Commander, Chester, VA

I was on your subscription list for at least 20 years.

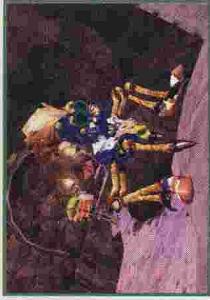
— Laura Pearlstein, Stoughton, MA

I'm 78 years old and have been receiving MAD since it first came out in 1952. The funny part is, I don't even read it! My husband orders it under my name! — Helga Peterson, via e-mail



## The Doctor Is In

Are You A Man Up A Mouse?  
Morph into six strange creatures from  
a gorilla to a spider using  
Dr. Muto's amazing  
Splitz Gun



Screenshots from PlayStation 2 computer

**D**r. Muto, the genius mad scientist whose latest experiment accidentally destroyed his home planet, has been the center of a media frenzy with the unveiling of his amazing new "Splitz Gun" technology. Muto's Splitz Gun enables him to mutate and morph with any living organism in order to accomplish tasks no human could achieve alone.

According to Muto, the Splitz Gun's morphing ability will be key in his attempts to rebuild his world. "I simply sample some DNA and 'BANG,' I morph into a mouse, spider, gorilla or any other creature I see fit to become," Muto madly muttered in an exclusive *World News Watch* interview. "It's not that I am a megalomaniac, I just want to play God."

Muto's technology is receiving so much attention and interest that he will begin selling the Splitz Gun through TV infomercials next month. Also, leading video game publisher Midway has entered into an exclusive deal with the doctor for the release of an action/adventure videogame based on his bizarre and intriguing life and his Splitz Gun technology. Information about Muto's videogame, simply titled, "Dr. Muto," is revealed on [www.drmuto.midway.com](http://www.drmuto.midway.com), which is a website devoted to Muto's universe of baffling puzzles, mind-bending devices, freakish monstrosities and twisted humor.

Is Dr. Muto the 21st Century's Einstein, or just another madman? Judge for yourself this fall when "Dr. Muto" the videogame releases for next generation videogame platforms.

### PROFILE ON



**Professor Burnitall**  
As energy magnate of the Central Profs' & O. Gunter, Burnitall has outperformed all expectations for energy production by strip-mining and plugging the natural resources of every planet in the system. He's a master at making energy while demolishing a society, but the genius Dr. Muto has become a wrinkle in his expansion plans. We caught up with the professor recently, who told us "He's a lunatic on making my beautiful energy empire. That's why Dr. Muto believes he can build a planet from scraps of DNA and terra, then steal my energy reserves as the catalyst." Burnitall went on to say that Muto is a "reptile terrorist" and, "My forces will stop at nothing to destroy the terrible little man, no matter what he drags himself into."



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# WORLD NEWS WATCH

NOVEMBER 2002

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## Dr. Muto Revealed!

Meet The Man Behind The Morph [www.drmuto.midway.com](http://www.drmuto.midway.com)

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**Coming Soon**

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## THE DEVIL & MS. VOSBURGH

I never thought your stupidity could be at all helpful, I was wrong! My mother (we call her the Aztec Goddess of Suffering) is about to move into a new house with the address of 666! I was worried that something terrible might happen to her there and she might end up living with me — and worst of all start cooking again! But no, you nuts have saved me! I'm confident that the gold crucifix, the pounds of garlic and the silver bullet from "Mr. Fix-It Tackles Your Occult and Paranormal Home Repair Problems" (MAD #419) will ensure the crazy old chick stays where she belongs — in her own house!

Diane Vosburgh, Lombard, IL

Princess Di — We're glad to be of service. Tell your mom we hope she enjoys her new home, especially the bedroom, bedroom, bedroom! —Ed.

## P.X., I HATE YOU

I am currently stationed in Bosnia Herzegovina and happened to pick up issue #421 at the PX. I was disgusted when I read page 26, "The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Official Edict on Pedophile Priests." I'm a soldier proudly serving my country to protect all freedoms, including free speech, but it's unfortunate that people like Mr. Devlin would abuse his right by writing an attack on Catholics. Mr. Devlin should be ashamed of himself and MAD should be ashamed of themselves. I'll pray that Mr. Devlin's soul doesn't rot in hell. I will no longer buy your magazine and I will encourage other American Catholic soldiers to boycott your magazine.

Spc. Quezada, 28th M.P. Co  
Camp Eagle Base

Que — Thank you for your letter. Pray all you like, but if you do it in a church, we have these words of advice: watch out for some of dem priests. You follow? —Ed.

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Paul Levitz: September 20, 2002

## BLANKS FOR THE MEMORIES

In MAD #423 we printed a special bonus MAD crossword puzzle. We couldn't figure out half the answers and we work here! Even with the answer key, we're still stumped! Enjoy!



## Make A Dumb Wish Foundation™

I need a wish granted and the *Make A Dumb Wish Foundation*™ writers are the only ones equipped to the task. In MAD #413, you printed a picture of Osama bin Laden with a rusty nail driven into his eye. My wish is that you print a picture of him with a red-hot rod driven through his head.

Jason Hodne, Pine Bush, NY

J-Ho — Even though it's not exactly a dumb wish, who are we to stand in the way of your splendid little request? On behalf of the entire board of the *Make A Dumb Wish Foundation*™, enjoy! —Ed.



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The Martha Stewart Stock Scandal  
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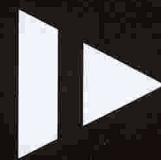
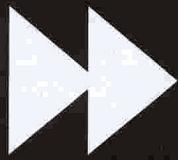
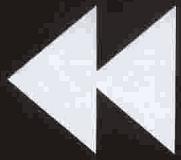
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## THEY'RE OFF TO BE THE WIZARDS DEPT.

Teachers and parents agree that J.K. Rowling's four *Harry Potter* books have energized the world of publishing. Single-handedly, they've reintroduced children to the unparalleled joys that only reading can bring. So what do they do next? They turn them into movies, so all those lazy bastard kids can revert right back to their usual drooling, catatonic state. Great! So much for the joys of reading! In fact, chances are none of you are even bothering to read this whole boring paragraph with all these words, the one that introduces...

# Harry

I am Albus Doubledork! On behalf of **Halfwits** and its professors, but mostly the holders of plunging AOL Time Warner stock, I welcome you! This promises to be a rich and rewarding sequel...er, I mean, semester! This school was built on one thing: tradition! A certain way of doing things! And that's why we pretty much repeat the exact same plot as the first book!

That withered stick insect next to me is Professor McConjugal, the school's second-in-command! Now, considering that my idea of leadership is letting Druckermort, the most evil wizard alive, use the school's basement like a time-share resort whenever he feels like dropping by, just imagine what a total mess *she* must be!

Over there is Rubiks Haggard! Seeing our freakishly enormous groundskeeper year after year lets the students know one thing: Vince McMahon is **not** hiring! This 400-pound Furby has a very special, close relationship with different species of animals. Many of them live in his beard!



Runt Queasy is one of our second-year students. His dad's an ineffectual doofus, his older brother is a self-important big shot, and his little sister, Ninny, is a lovesick dummy who's the personal assistant to the most evil wizard in history! All of a sudden, Harry Plodder's family looks good! They're all dead!

Next we have Herwhiny Grungy. Nobody knows who put the wand up her butt! She may be half witch, half human, but she's 100% pest! She's such a colossally irritating know-it-all that she should be web designing one of those snooty Harry Plodder fan websites!

# Plodder

ARTIST: TOM RICHMOND

WRITER: DESMOND DEVLIN

## AND THE LAMEST OF SEQUELS

That scowling curmudgeon sticking pins in his Harry Plodder doll is Prof. Severely Snapped! He's an embittered wannabe who desperately wishes HE could be the #1 man in charge! But he'll never get the chance because nobody likes him. Think of him as the wizard world's Al Gore!

There in the corner is Tom Riddler, semi-invisible bad guy! He's really the evil Druckermort, but uses a phony name! He writes misleading messages back and forth with a young girl, Ninny Queasy, through an incredible magic diary. Why doesn't he just use IMs on AOL, like every other perv in the country?

Our newest teacher is Corduroy Pockmark, author of the world's phoniest biography!

Every page is designed to disguise the fact that he's an egomaniacal fraud. He's the Rudy Giuliani of wizardry! He's written dozens of books, all with the same problem: he uses the letter "I" more than the other 25 letters in the alphabet combined!



And the star of our little fiasco is Harry Plodder! He's got incredible wizard powers locked deep inside. He also has a lot of personal pain locked deep inside. In fact, everything's inside with this blank-faced little stiff – especially some acting talent which he's yet to unlock!

He's actually a normal preteen kid with normal concerns! Regular kids worry about getting zits and blackheads. Harry worries about the glowing lightning bolt scar on his forehead that he got the night his parents got whacked. Same basic concept!

But there is something that makes him very different from everyone else. And it's *not* his mysterious past or unique talents. It's that he's a 12-year-old who actually *likes* being at school! What a total wuss!

This stinks! Today is my birthday and nobody remembered!

Well, at least the Doodlys gave you a cake for your 12th birthday!

Big deal! It's the same cake I got for my 11th birthday, my 10th birthday, and my 9th birthday! That's *not* green icing on top!

Slobby is here to warn Harry Plodder! Harry Plodder must not go back to Halfwits!

And I'm here to warn Slobby the Elf that if he keeps talking in that weird stilted language, he stands a good chance of being the most annoying computer-generated movie character since Jar Jar Binks!

Hop in, Harry! We're busting you out!

How does this thing work?

The same way every action sequence in every Hollywood movie works! We all shout "Whoaa!" a lot!

Oh, Harry, you're so manly! I love to watch your muscles ripple!

Who? Me?

Don't forget that I've spent my whole life in a house filled with wussbag wizards like my dad and Runt! So my personal definition of "macho" is anyone who can beat up SpongeBob Squarepants!

Ahhh, Harry Plodder! Come up to the front of the line and take a free copy of any one of my books — *Gone with the Wand*, *A Farewell to Hairy Arms*, *Tuesdays with More Eels*, *Dragon Soup for the Soul*, *Make Way for Dungeons*, *The Witches of Madison County* — any of them! How about one of my elf-help books? Sorry for the tiny selection, but my hand cramped up for a long weekend last July! To make it up to you, how would you like to pay the membership fee to join my exclusive fan club? You can be the 11th member!

Who are the first ten members?

Me!

Oof! We're stuck! We'll miss the Halfwits train!

Look at the weirdos and freaks who are making it through. How come we're being stopped?

That's Homeland Security for you!

Hold it there, sir. Are you trying to sneak an explosive device onboard the Halfwits train?

A dinky little bomb? You fool! I'm holding the Sphere of Spaghulus, which will shred the fabric of our universe and destroy all existence!

Very sorry, sir. You can pass!

Oof! The suspension on this flying car is terrible!

We could be worse off!

How?

We could be traveling on Amtrak!



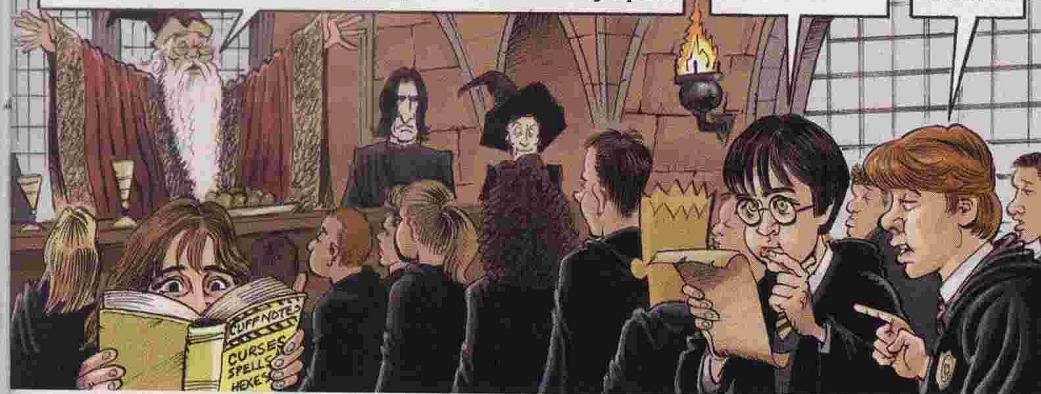
Allow me to explain the Halfwits "points system." Each of the four houses — Griddlecake, Flavorflav, Ramensoup and Slipnslide — gains or loses points as the semester goes on. It's a great way to build school morale — except for the 75% of our students who get to end the year as miserable losers! Points can be added or deducted at will, according to the plot! And in the event of a dispute, the final decision goes to the French ice skating judge from the last Olympics!

I can't decide which classes to sign up for. Potions lessons? Divination lessons? Flying lessons?

Try acting lessons! You're no Haley Joel Osment!

Uh-oh! Look out! Runt just got a Yowler!

How dare you drive the flying car to school! You could have been killed! Or worse, we might have had to pay for the tree! I bought you some new underpants — extra snug! And they're camouflage to disguise any stains!



You're supposed to be the most powerful young wizard in the world? Why can't you fix your eyesight and lose the dorky glasses?

Oh, oh, oh YEAH?

Since I have no way of knowing who started this argument, I'm forced to deduct points alphabetically! 10 points off Harry Plodder and Griddlecake for arguing!

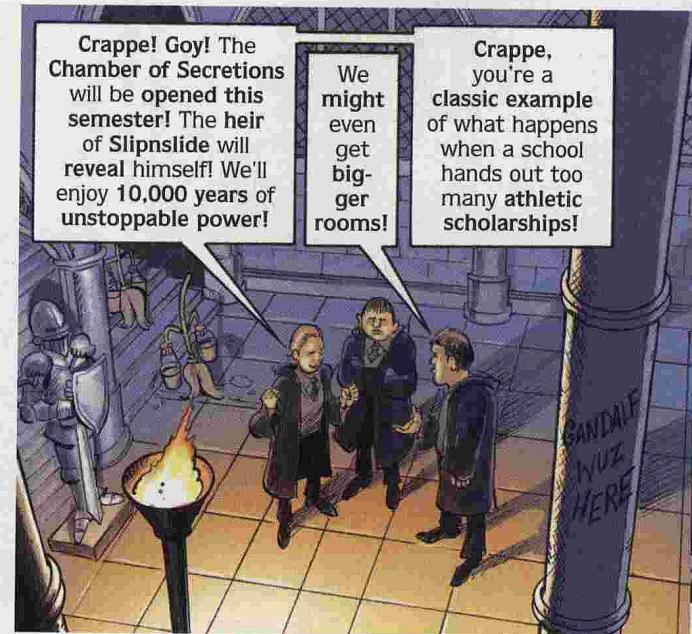
Huh? But "Harry Plodder" comes after "Drano Malformed"!

Still in a fighting mood, eh, Plodder? Make it 20 points off!

Crappe! Goy! The Chamber of Secrets will be opened this semester! The heir of Slipnslide will reveal himself! We'll enjoy 10,000 years of unstoppable power!

We might even get bigger rooms!

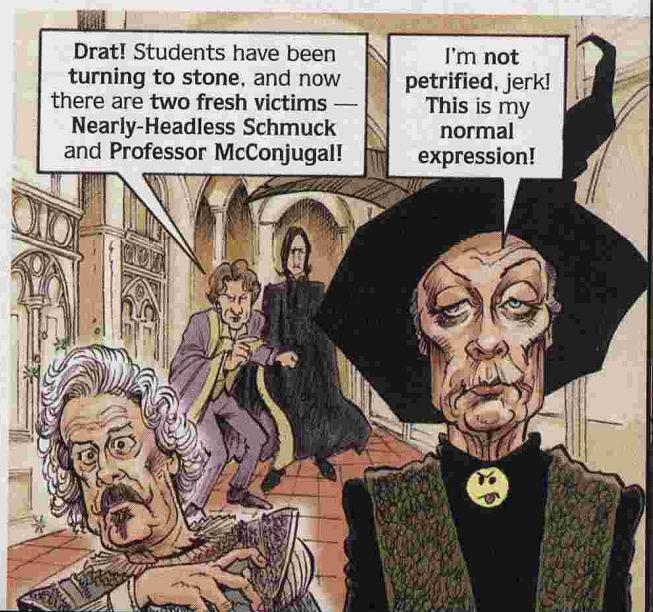
Crappe, you're a classic example of what happens when a school hands out too many athletic scholarships!



Don't worry about gifts, children! What do you get for the man who already has everything, not counting the cervical vertebrae necessary to support the weight of a human head? Come in! Have fun! After we're done playing Pin the Tail on the Undead Donkey, you can join our game of Musical Coffins!

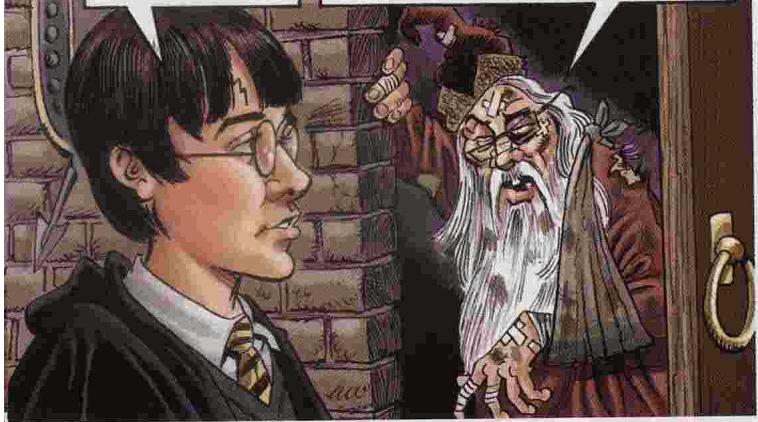
Weird! I've never been to an annual celebration of death before!

I have! My parents once took me to Wrigley Field to see the Chicago Cubs on Opening Day!



Prof. Doubledork!  
What happened?  
Were you  
almost petrified?  
An attack by  
Druckermort?  
Bad clams?

None of those! You know those collectible wizard cards where the person moves around inside the picture? That friggin' Drano Malformed got one of mine and stuck it into the spokes of his bicycle! He beat the S@#%\$ out of me!



These attacks didn't start until Plodder showed up!  
And he has the perfect motive! If he can make everyone else in the school lifeless and frozen, suddenly his rotten acting doesn't look so bad!

Burn him!  
He's a  
witch!  
We're  
ALL  
witches,  
dummy!

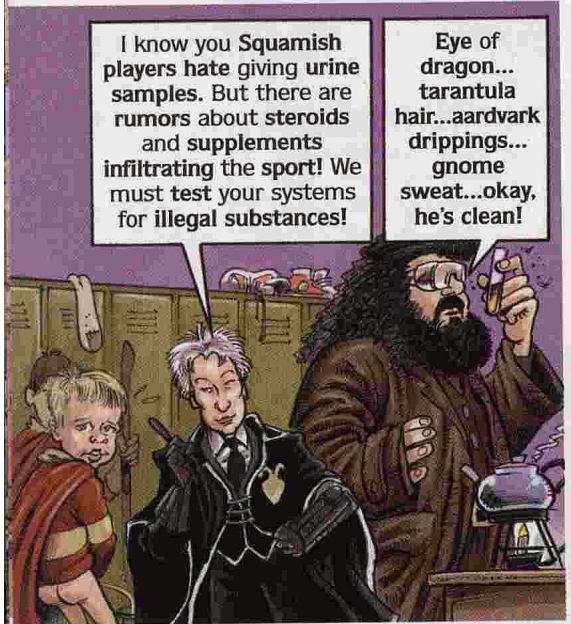
But...I battled  
Druckermort  
and saved everyone! That was  
just four months  
ago! Doesn't  
anyone remember that?

Yeah,  
vaguely!  
But  
what  
have you  
done  
for us  
lately?

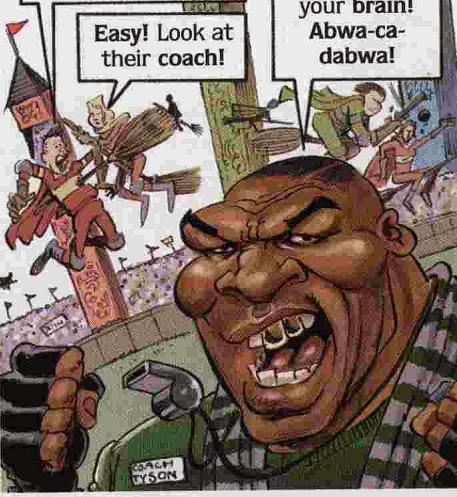


I know you Squamish players hate giving urine samples. But there are rumors about steroids and supplements infiltrating the sport! We must test your systems for illegal substances!

Eye of dragon... tarantula hair...aardvark drippings... gnome sweat...okay, he's clean!



Foul! Foul!  
How can Slipslide train their players to be so vicious?



I'll eat your children! I'll punch your nosebone into your brain!  
Abwa-ca-dabwa!

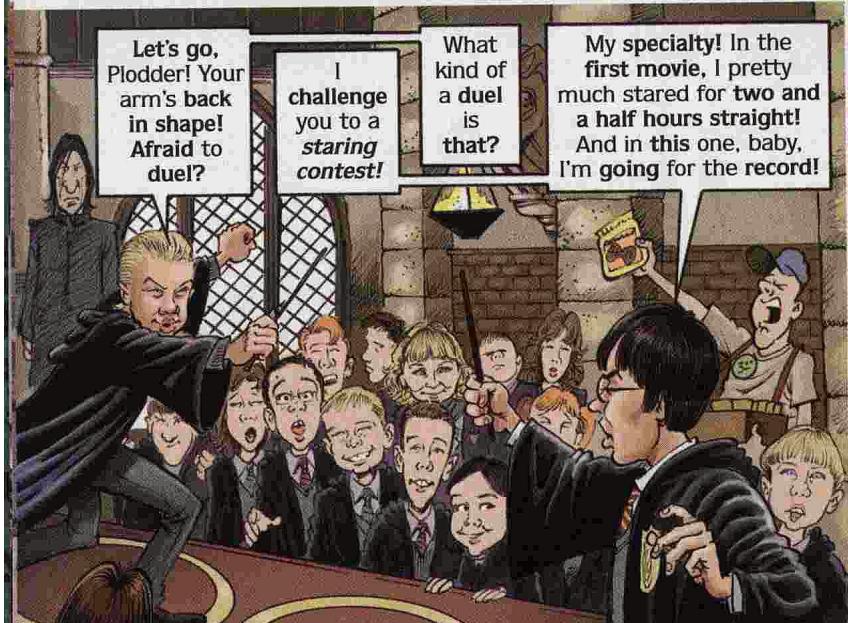


Let's go, Plodder! Your arm's back in shape! Afraid to duel?

I challenge you to a staring contest!

What kind of a duel is that?

My specialty! In the first movie, I pretty much stared for two and a half hours straight! And in this one, baby, I'm going for the record!

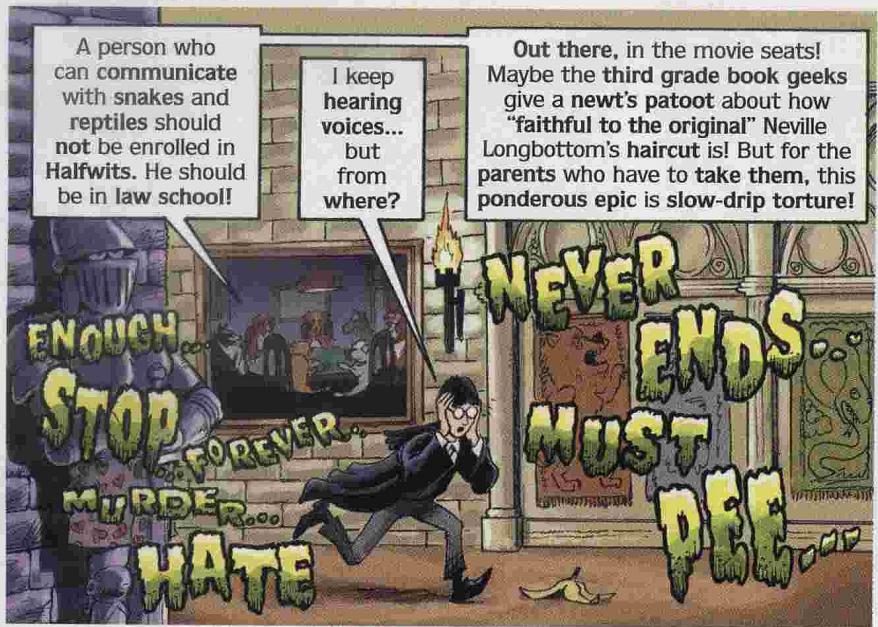


Potrzebie! Axolotl!  
Shakira!  
Yahtzee!  
Qatar!  
Häagen-Dazs!  
Viagra!

Typical! Two boy rivals on the verge of puberty and the first thing they do is whip out their wands! Do you see anything subliminal in that?

Nah. It's like Dr. Freud wrote, "Sometimes an enchanted death snake is just an enchanted death snake"!

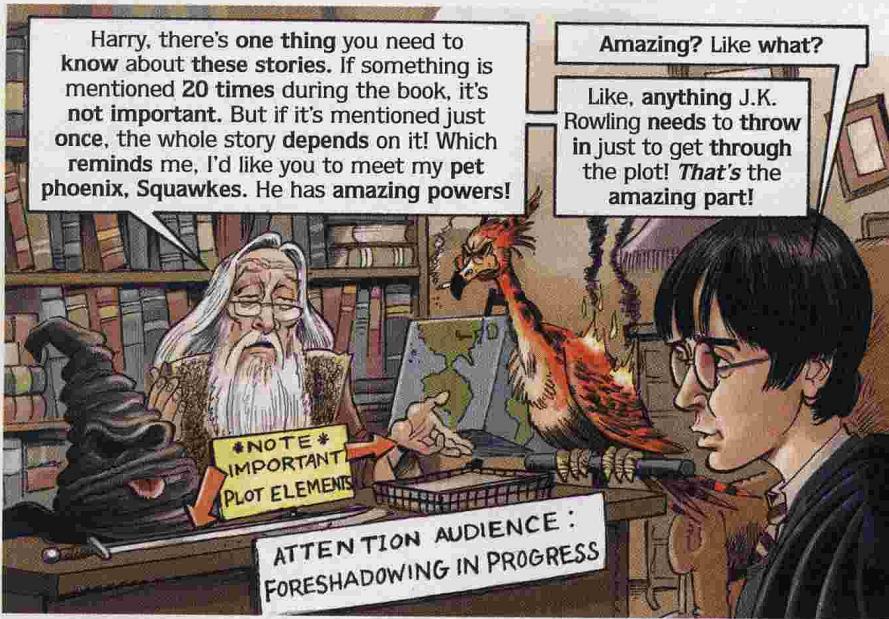




Out there, in the movie seats! Maybe the third grade book geeks give a newt's patoot about how "faithful to the original" Neville Longbottom's haircut is! But for the parents who have to take them, this ponderous epic is slow-drip torture!

We need hair from Drano and his two goons! It completes my Presto Change-o Potion! We will be transformed into those rich jerks and go undercover! We can infiltrate their fancy parties, wear their expensive clothes, mingle with the important people!

Just one question: do we have to change back?

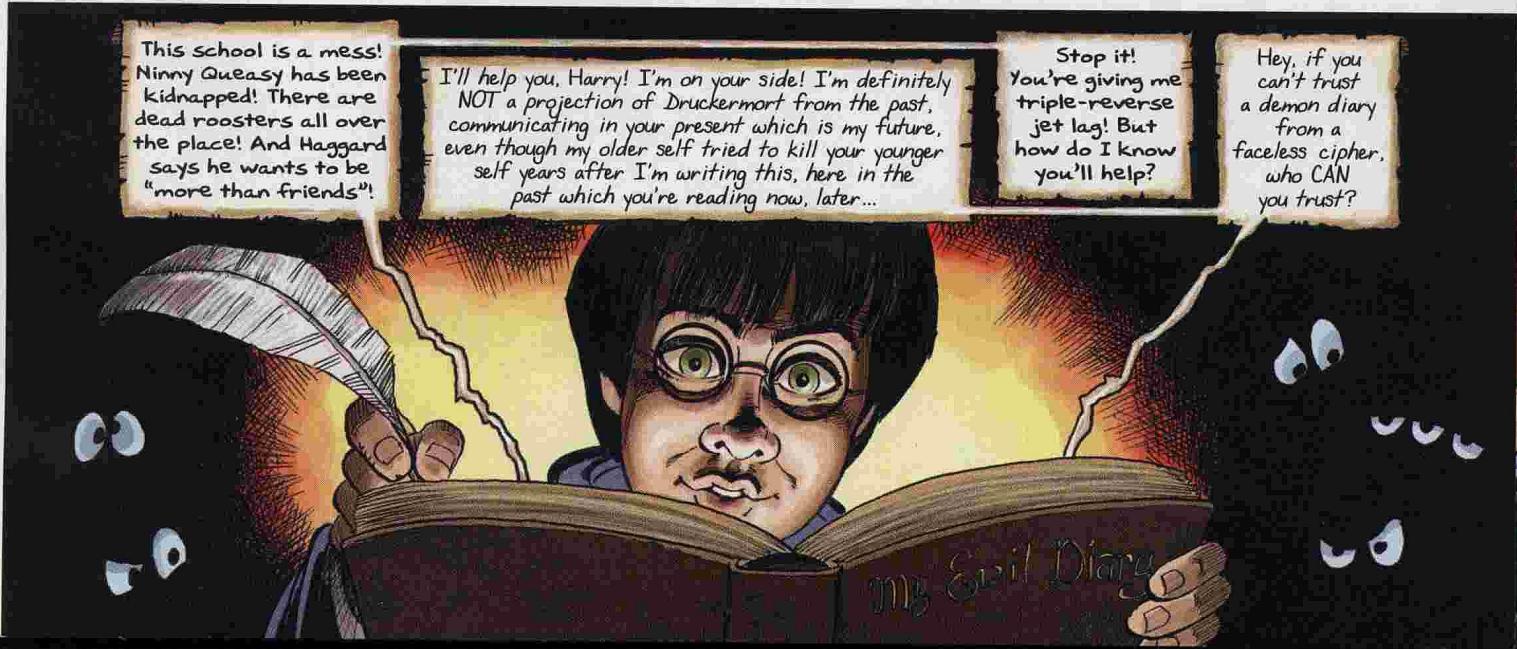
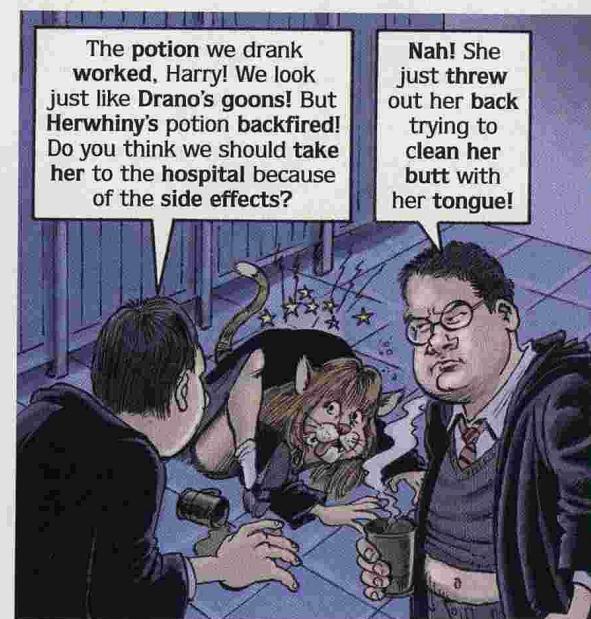


Amazing? Like what?

Like, anything J.K. Rowling needs to throw in just to get through the plot! *That's* the amazing part!

The potion we drank worked, Harry! We look just like Drano's goons! But Herwinhy's potion backfired! Do you think we should take her to the hospital because of the side effects?

Nah! She just threw out her back trying to clean her butt with her tongue!



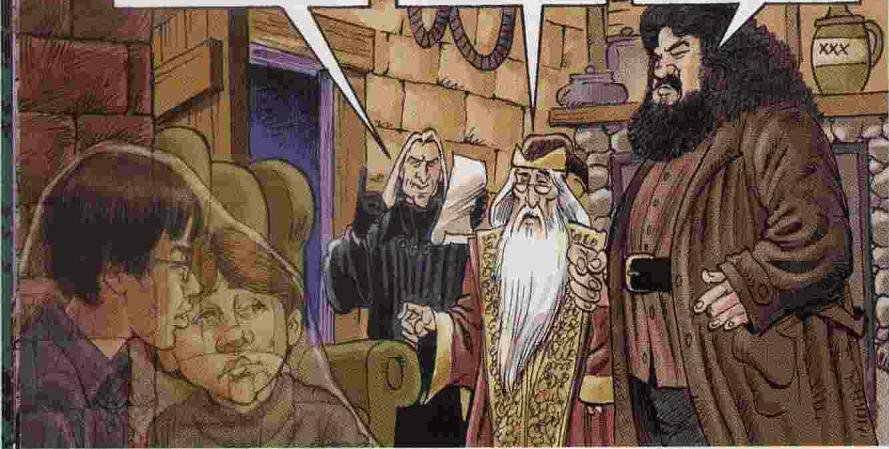
Tsk! What a pity you've both been suspended from Halfwits for endangering the lives of its secondary characters!

That's okay, Mr. Malformed! I could use a few months off to comb the split ends out of my hair!

While I'm away at prison, like, jus' be sure t' feed all o' my animals. Y' can feed half o' them t' the other half!

We wore my invisible cloak to sneak into the enchanted forest! And now we're being rescued from being devoured by 30 million talking spiders by a sentient flying car! Do you know what this means?

Yes! J.K. Rowling has officially run out of good ideas!



That paper has to be important! Believe me, I can tell! I've seen every single episode of *Blue's Clues*!

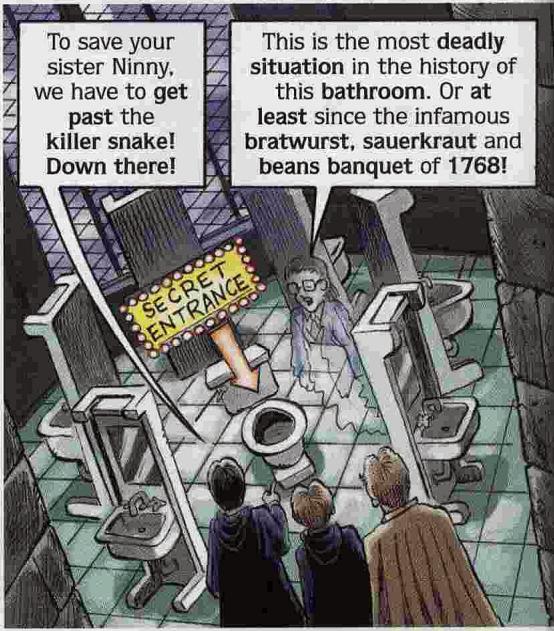
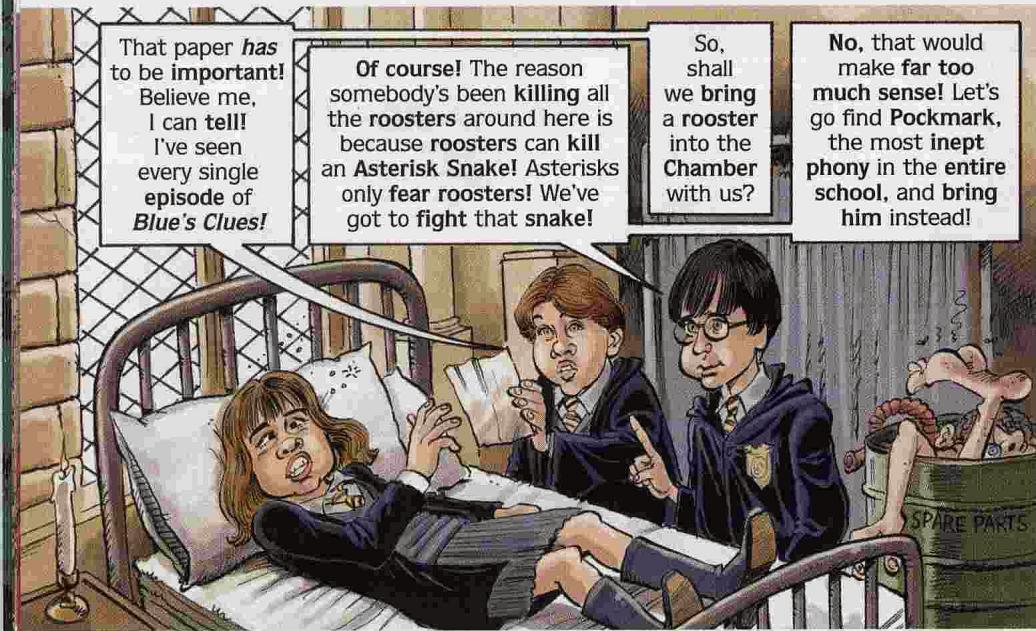
Of course! The reason somebody's been killing all the roosters around here is because roosters can kill an Asterisk Snake! Asterisks only fear roosters! We've got to fight that snake!

So, shall we bring a rooster into the Chamber with us?

No, that would make far too much sense! Let's go find Pockmark, the most inept phony in the entire school, and bring him instead!

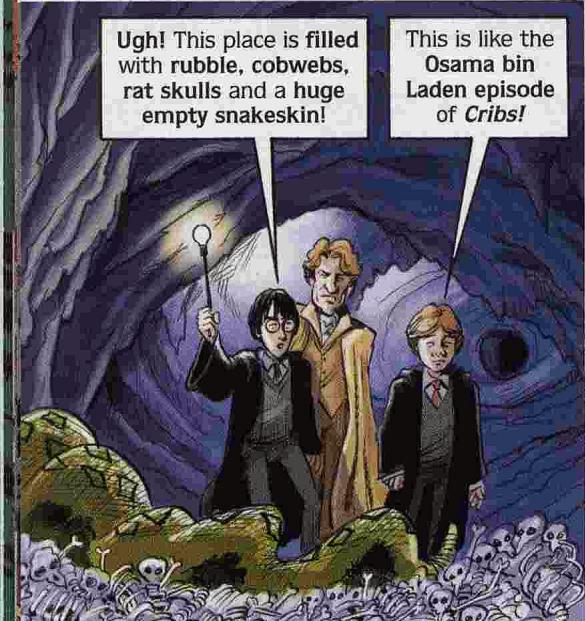
To save your sister Ninny, we have to get past the killer snake! Down there!

This is the most deadly situation in the history of this bathroom. Or at least since the infamous bratwurst, sauerkraut and beans banquet of 1768!



Ugh! This place is filled with rubble, cobwebs, rat skulls and a huge empty snakeskin!

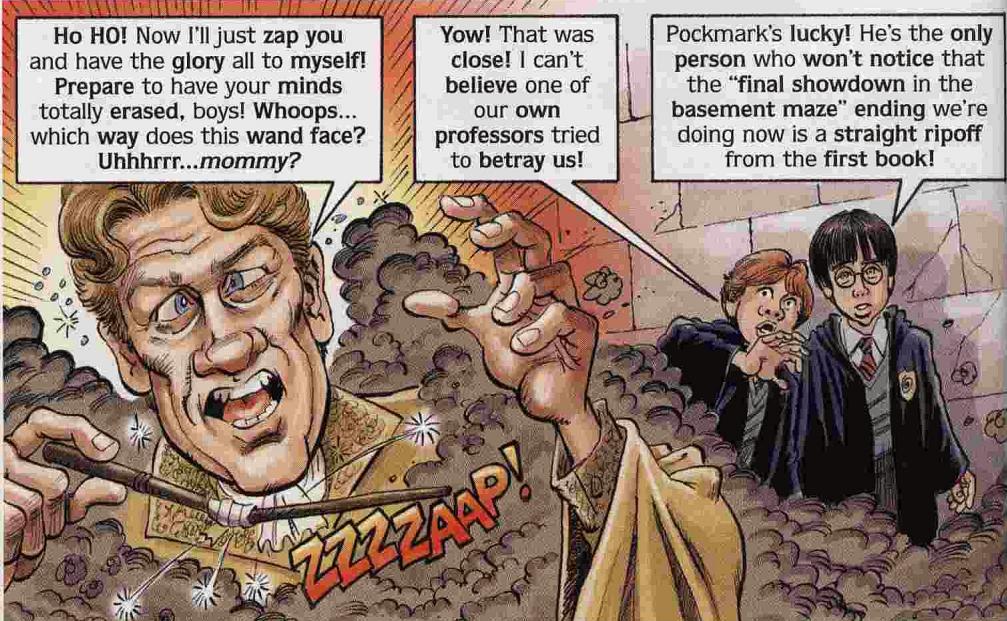
This is like the Osama bin Laden episode of *Cribs*!

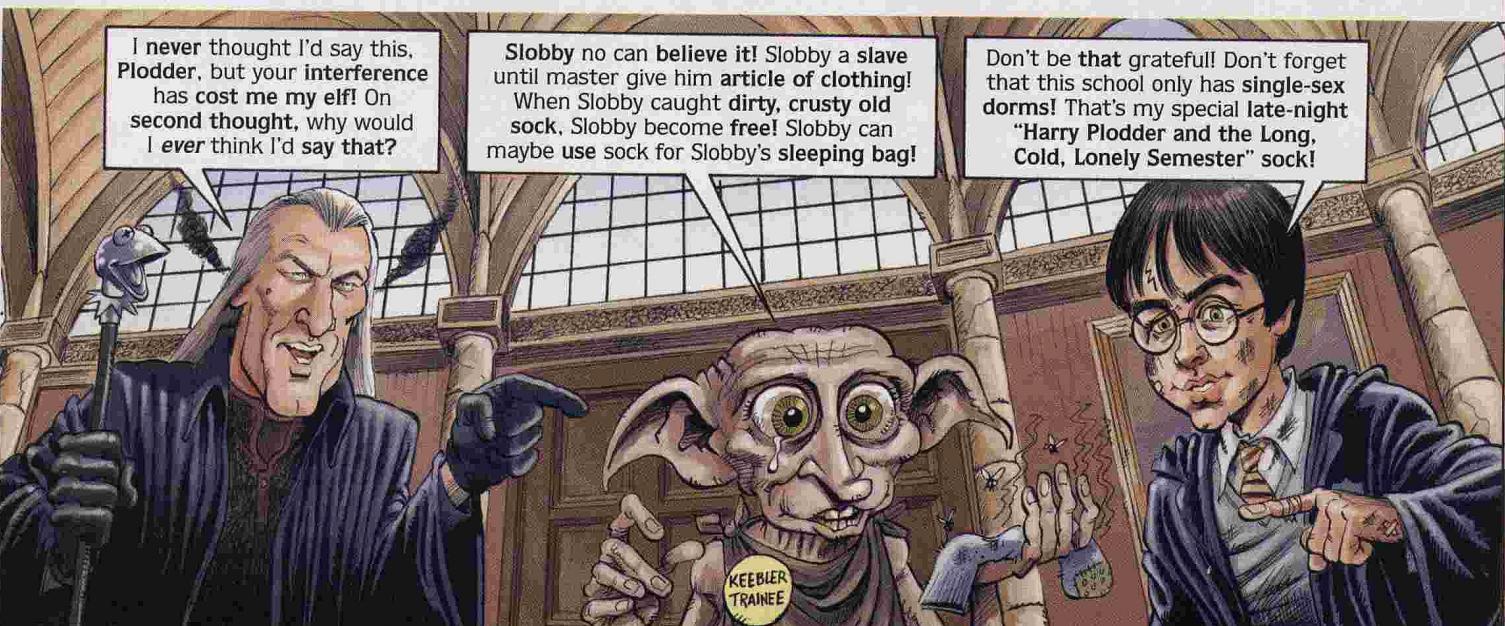
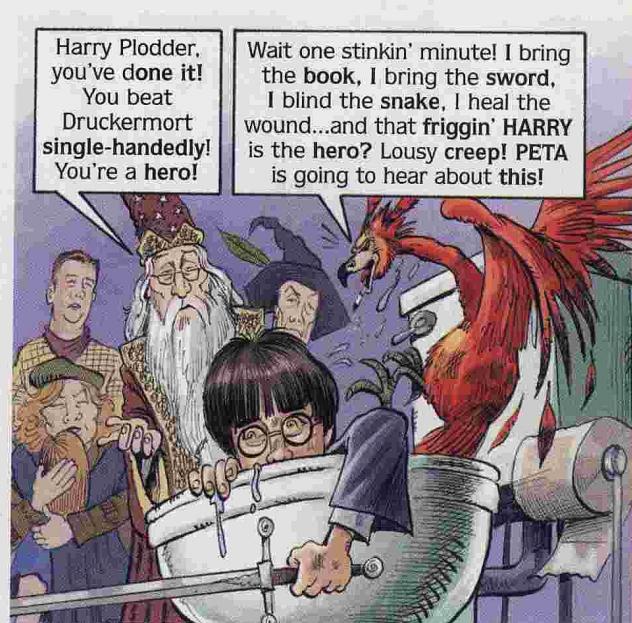
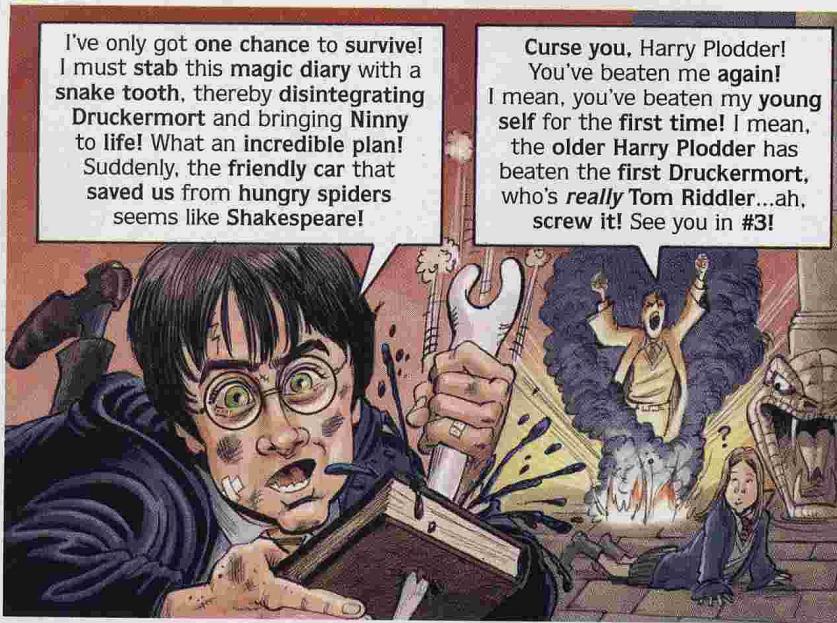
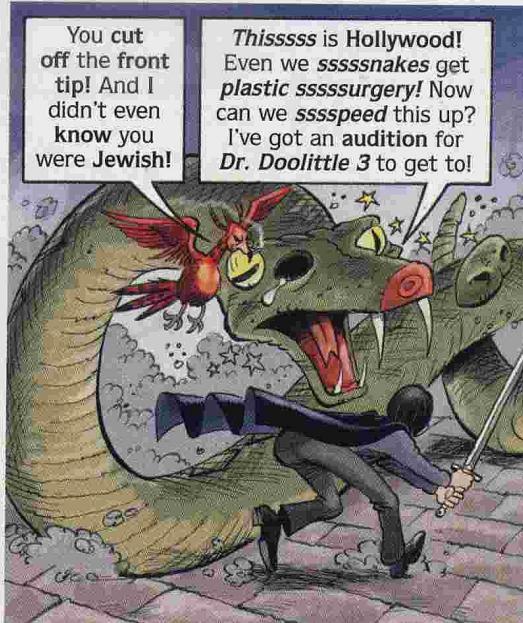
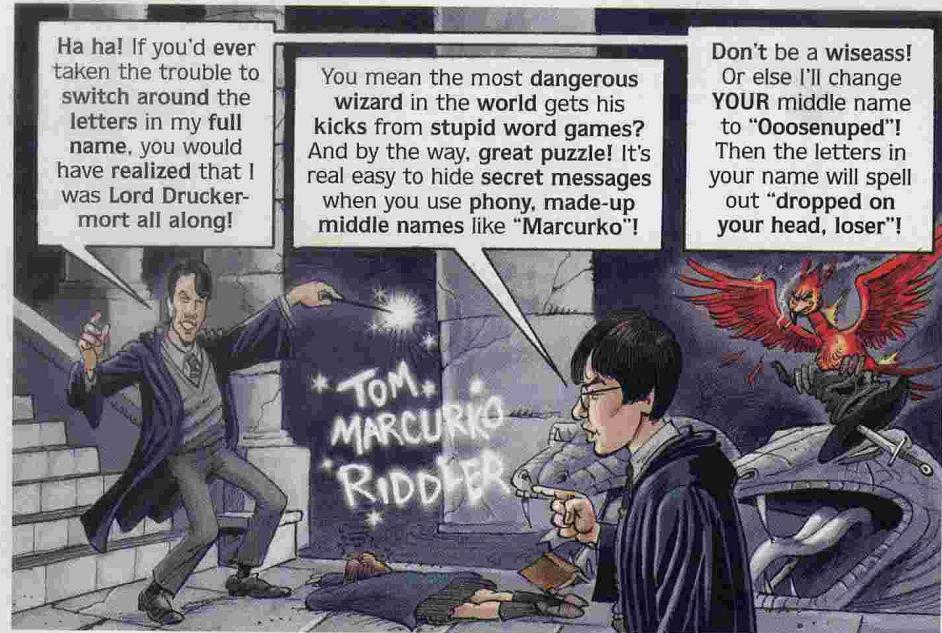


Ho HO! Now I'll just zap you and have the glory all to myself! Prepare to have your minds totally erased, boys! Whoops... which way does this wand face? Uhhrrrr...mommy?

Yow! That was close! I can't believe one of our own professors tried to betray us!

Pockmark's lucky! He's the only person who won't notice that the "final showdown in the basement maze" ending we're doing now is a straight ripoff from the first book!

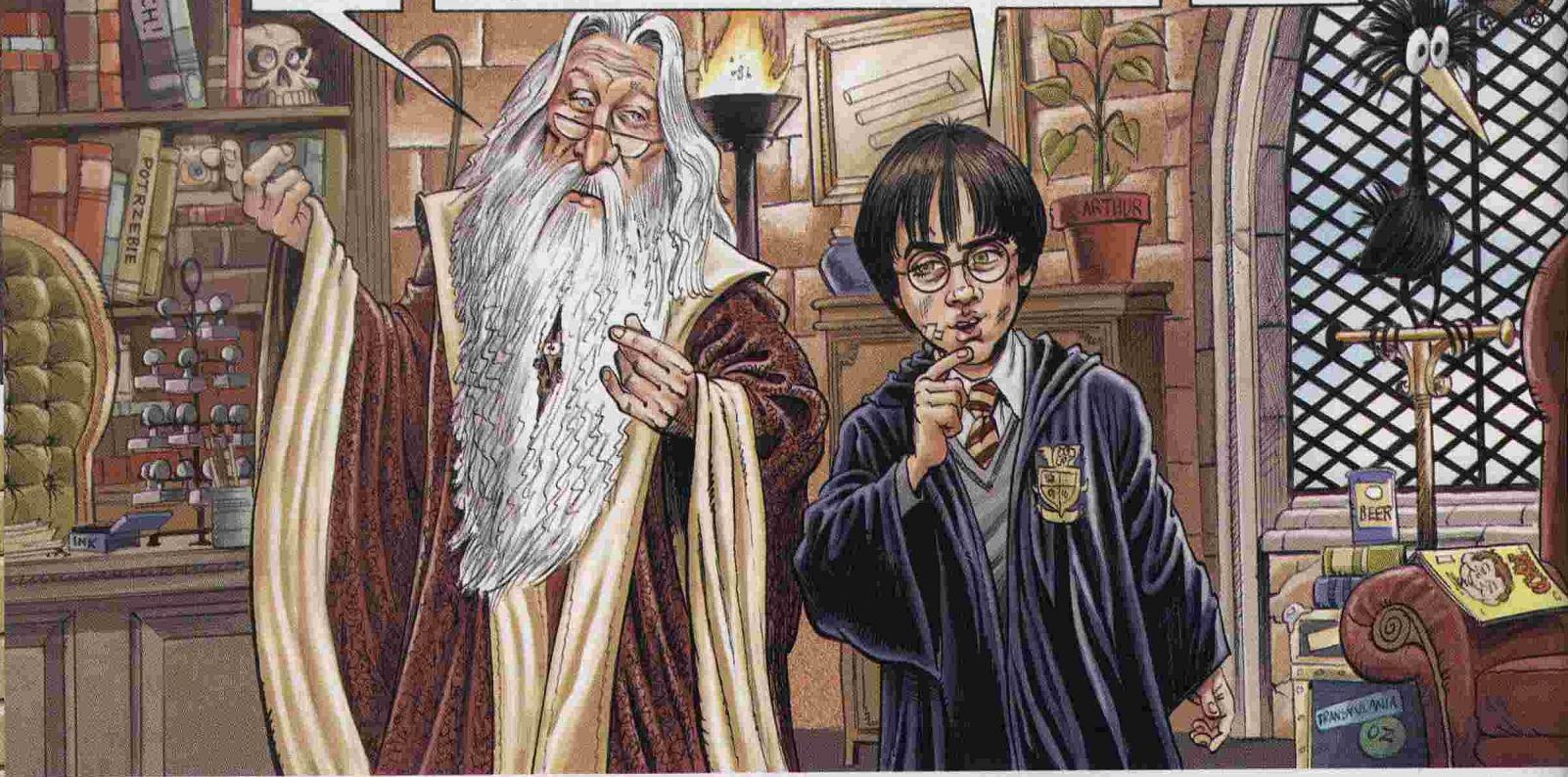




Now that the crisis has passed, is there anything you wish to know?

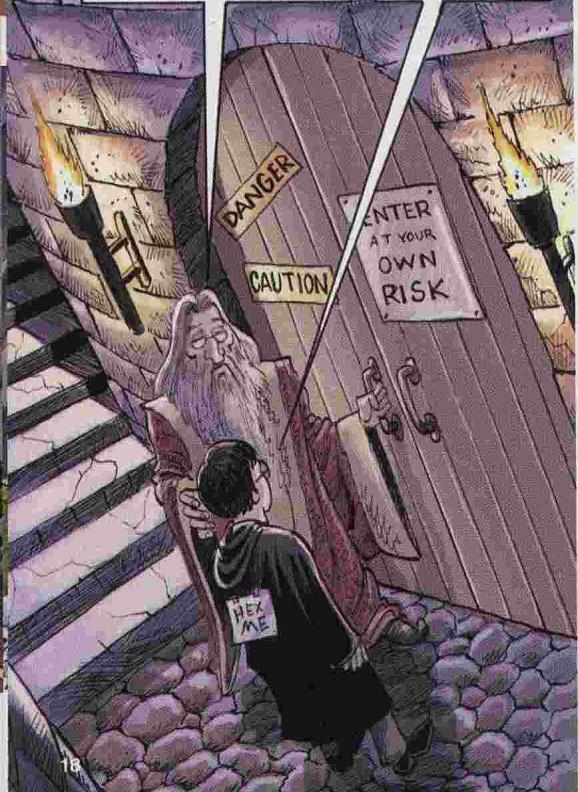
There sure is! Why did you hire a dangerous incompetent like Pockmark? If your bird could find the Chamber of Secrets in two minutes, why couldn't you find it in 50 years? Why should I consider you a mentor and protector when I almost get killed right under your nose in every book? How did you get fired, then just come back anyway? And why is everyone so happy? The #1 bad guy's gotten away. Not just once, but over and over! So what do we do now?

Exactly what President Bush did with Al Qaeda! Ignore all evidence to the contrary and declare total victory!

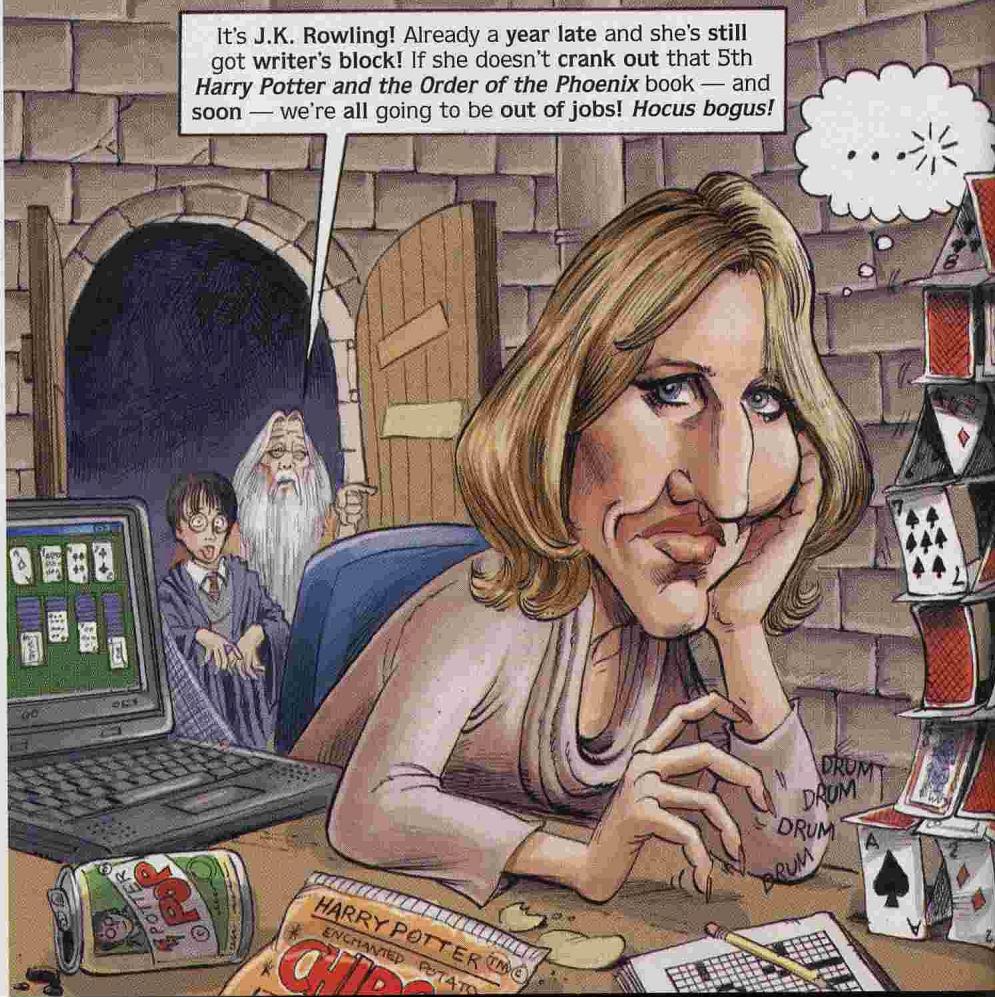


However, one danger remains! There is a chamber with an even darker secret! A secret that could spell doom for your future! Dare you face it, Harry?

I saw Haggard in the shower once! Nothing scares me anymore! Show me the way!



It's J.K. Rowling! Already a year late and she's still got writer's block! If she doesn't crank out that 5th Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix book — and soon — we're all going to be out of jobs! *Hocus bogus!*





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Violence

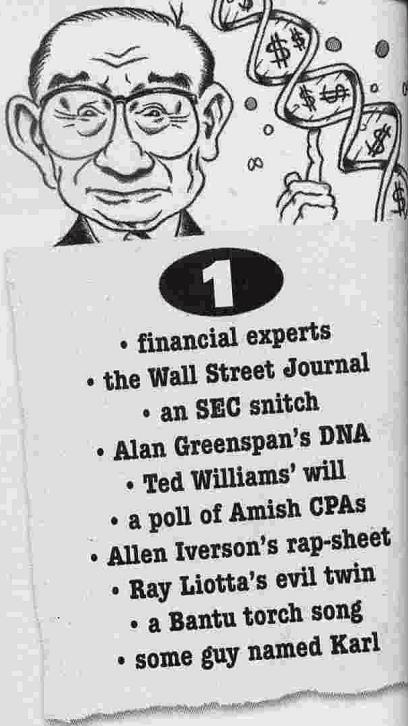
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Day after day, we hear of a new corporate scandal, along with fresh allegations of fraud and dishonest accounting practices. To save our readers the time and effort of plowing through article after article, MAD now wraps up the entire mess. Simply fill in the numbered blanks from the corresponding numbered lists, and you'll have MAD's...

# ALL-INCLUSIVE DO-IT-YOURSELF CORPORATE SCANDAL NEWSPAPER STORY



- 1 • financial experts
- the Wall Street Journal
- an SEC snitch
- Alan Greenspan's DNA
- Ted Williams' will
- a poll of Amish CPAs
- Allen Iverson's rap-sheet
- Ray Liotta's evil twin
- a Bantu torch song
- some guy named Karl



According to 1,

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Experts warn that only

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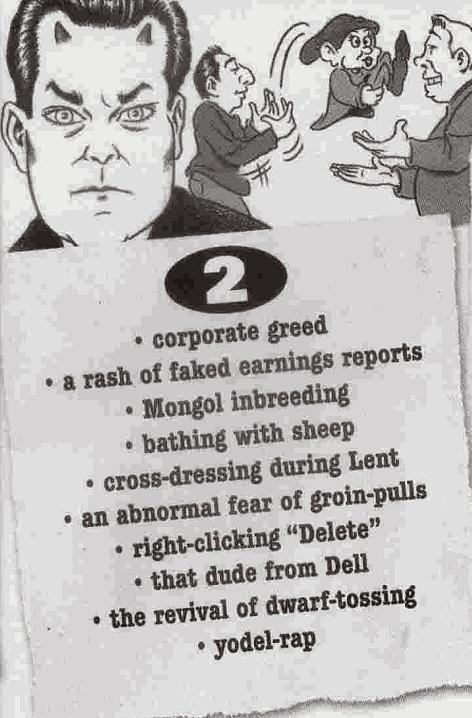
- the stock market
- the business community
- the Christian Coalition
- Grand Theft Auto III enthusiasts
- Jets fans
- a big part of the Sudan
- Native American casinos
- granola snorters
- yak hunters
- nude backpackers

**11**

- new regulations
- government watchdogs
- impeaching Dubya
- not landing on Park Place
- weekly high colonics
- penile implants
- Rogaine slurpees
- the public flogging of Martha Stewart
- adding eunuchs to the Supreme Court
- replacing the dollar with wampum

**12**

- prevent another Great Depression
- restore public confidence
- cancel Big Brother 3
- reunite Tom and Nicole
- slim down Rosie O'Donnell
- halt global warming
- shut up Ted Turner
- bring peace to the Maldives
- restore Topeka to its former glory
- end the side effects of Vioxx

**2**

- corporate greed
- a rash of faked earnings reports
- Mongol inbreeding
- bathing with sheep
- cross-dressing during Lent
- an abnormal fear of groin-pulls
- right-clicking "Delete"
- that dude from Dell
- the revival of dwarf-tossing
- yodel-rap

**3**

- devastate
- put the screws to
- shake but not stir
- make caca of
- Enronize
- rain down locusts on
- calcify
- reduce to a bloody pulp
- hot-wire
- unleash Billy Bob Thornton on

**4**

- the U.S. economy
- the Fortune 500
- Green Bay's title hopes
- Condoleezza Rice's mainframe
- the gay Mafia
- Joan Rivers' facelift
- Vatican groupies
- the Yukon tourist season
- the gypsy workforce
- John Ashcroft's sex fantasies

**2**

threatens to

Citing **5**,**6****7**thereby **9** **10**.**11**can **12**.**9**

- eroding confidence in
- really pissing off
- freaking out
- mooning
- defoliating
- pulling the plug on
- confirming the worst fears of
- deep-sixing
- increasing the sensual lure of
- ruining SpongeBob episodes for

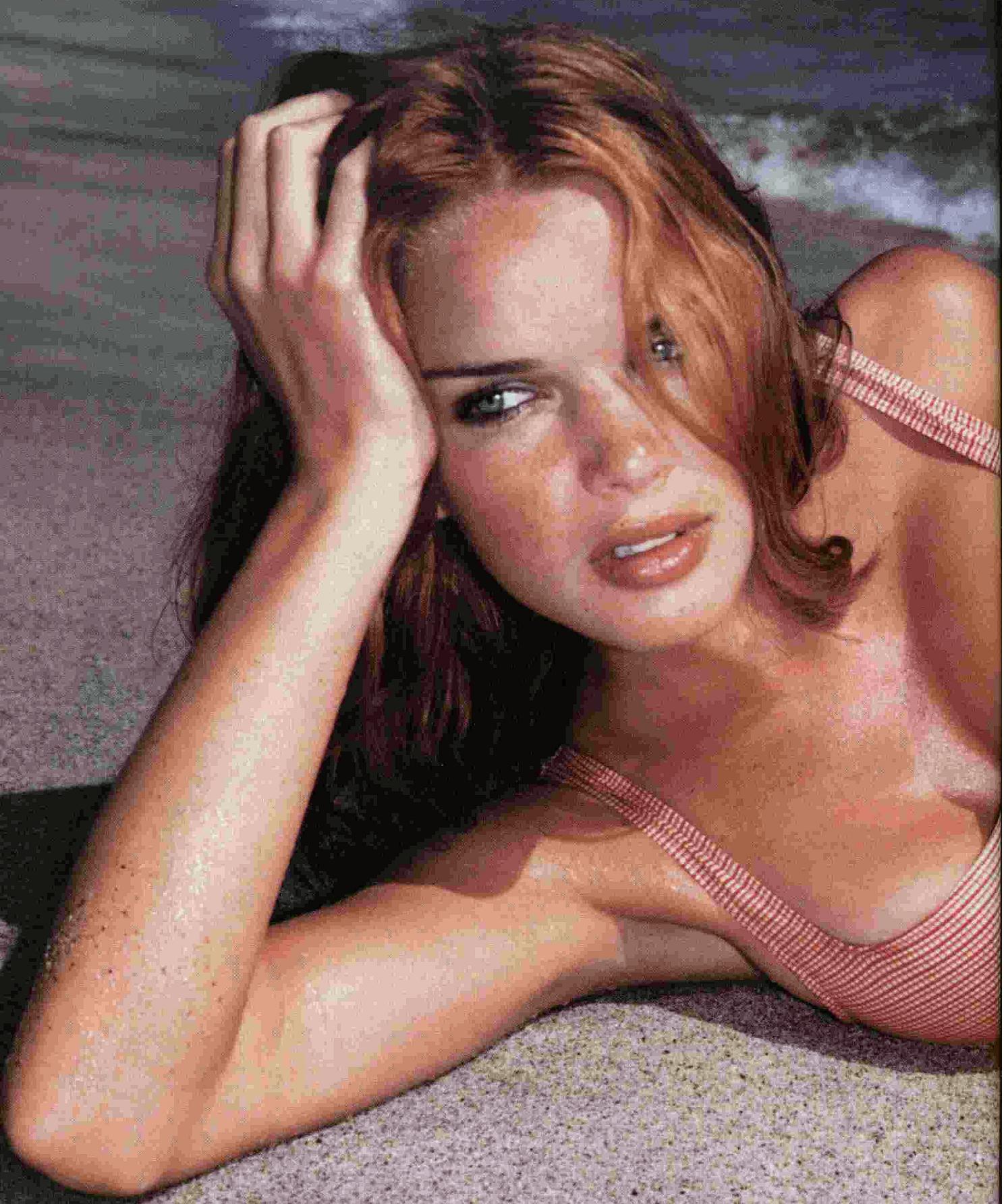
**8**

- inflate earnings
- fleece investors
- break wind shamelessly
- feast on birch bark
- high-five after sex
- pierce the elderly
- spike Ovaltine
- hit on each other
- overrate Ben Stein
- organize pygmy rallies

**7**

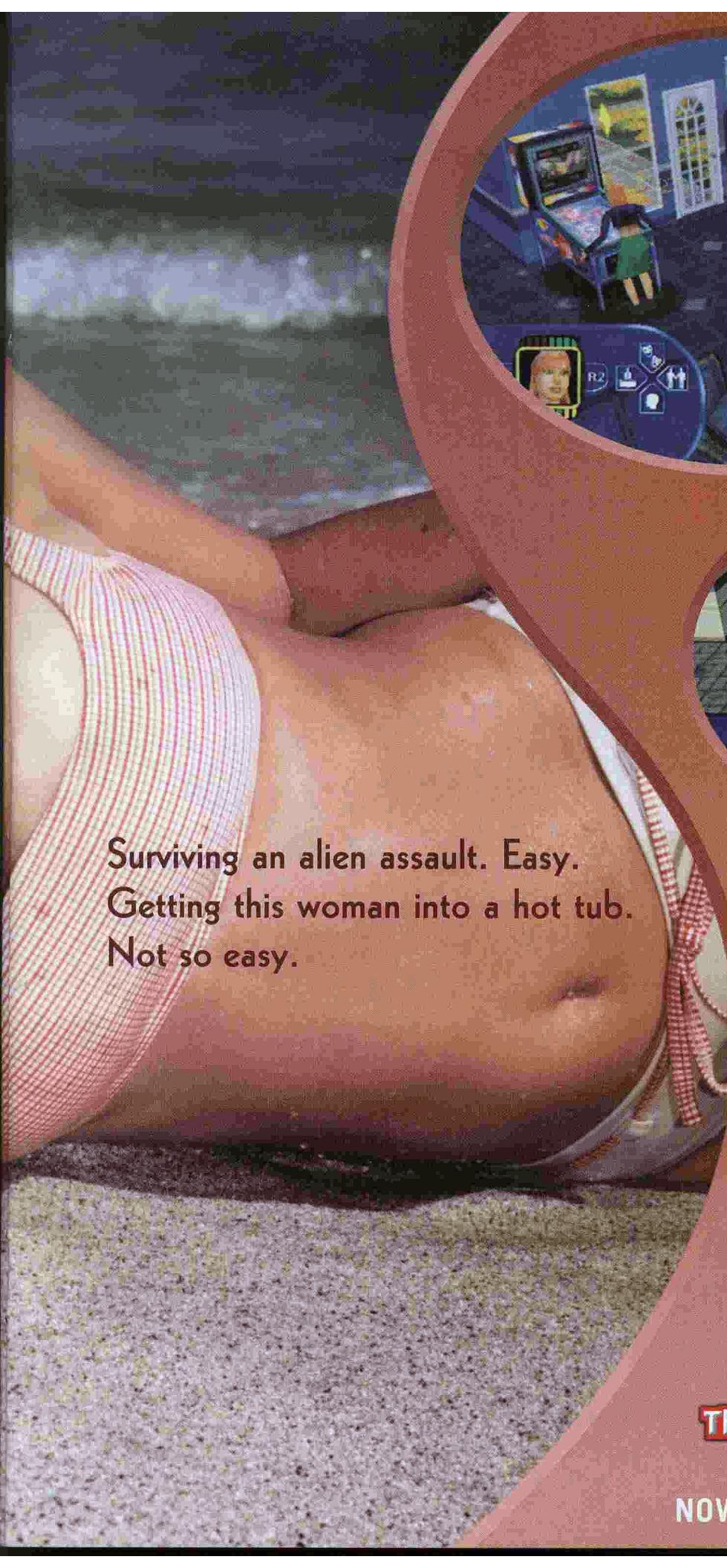
- CEOs
- Congressmen
- overweight midgets
- Ross Perot bobblehead dolls
- CIA transsexuals
- lap dancers
- Muscovites
- lip-readers
- Zoltan Zandar fans
- Bronx sharecroppers



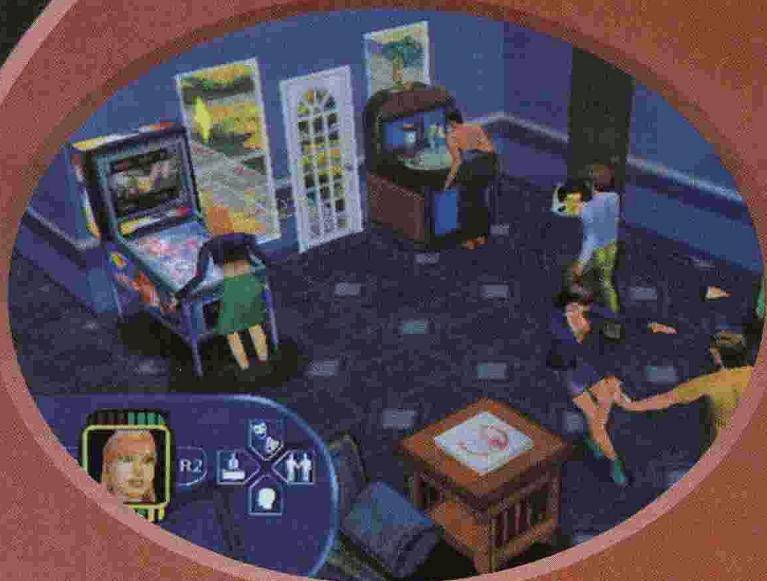


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Anyone who reads *Martha Stewart Living* magazine (and that number dwindles every day) knows that one page each month is dedicated to "Martha's Calendar," a day-by-day listing of Martha's projects, chores, jaunts and reminders. (If you *don't* read the magazine, now you know, too. Macramé breath!) We never had any reason to doubt the calendar wasn't true, but considering Martha's current insider trading problems, we can't believe her days are still filled with just making lavender potpourris and bottling persimmon chutney! We'd like to see a more accurate monthly schedule of her activities, something like...

## IF MARTHA'S

## calendar

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

## NOVEMBER

3 Can peaches and tomatoes; can stockbroker whose assistant sang to feds

4 Plant hardy perennials that won't need maintenance for, like, 7-10 years, just in case

10 Put summer clothing into storage, for, like, 7-10 years, just in case

11 Call friend Anna Wintour — ask her to run story in *Vogue* promoting orange jumpsuits as new "in" fashion look

17 Hire acting coach to teach looks of remorse, humility, etc.

18 To escape doldrums, fire random employee for no reason

19 Call Justice Department — offer to cater John Ashcroft's next birthday party FREE

24 Sunday brunch with friends — if there are any left

25 Scour flea markets for tin prison cups — practice drinking out of them

26 Get sized for ankle bracelet monitoring device, just in case

6 8:36 a.m. Court TV appearance

13 8:36 a.m. Court TV appearance

20 8:36 a.m. Court TV appearance

27 8:36 a.m. Court TV appearance

7 Harvest favors from politicians who received large re-election donations into making this whole nightmare disappear

14 Add organic waste and recent phone records to compost pile

21 Install subdued and tasteful track lighting in escape tunnel

28 Thanksgiving (Not being celebrated this year)

1 Shred summer cabbage for coleslaw; shred documentation of other "perfectly legal" stock trades the SEC hasn't found out about yet

8 Dig up Forsythia bushes and someone at Merrill Lynch willing to swear under oath that the ImClone stock sale was made on a previously arranged sell order

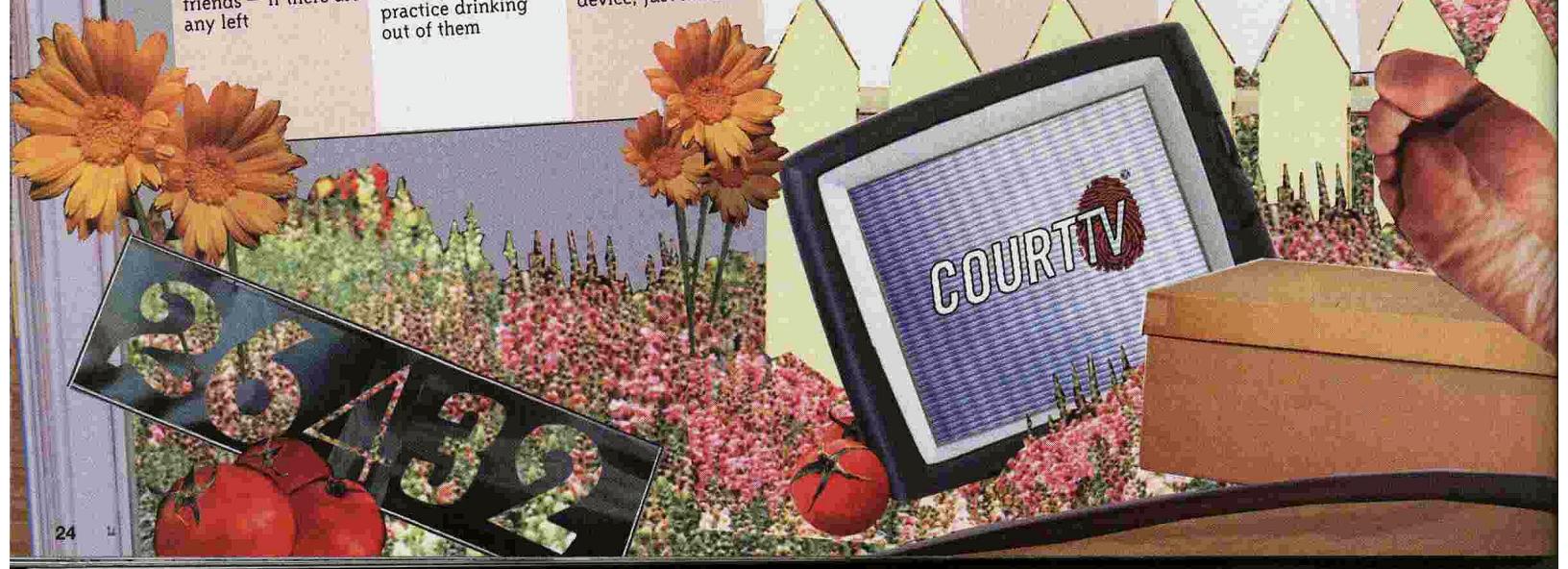
15 Research which countries do not have extradition treaties with U.S.

22 Paint picket fence green or yellow or purple — ANY color that makes it look less like a cold, confining prison cell

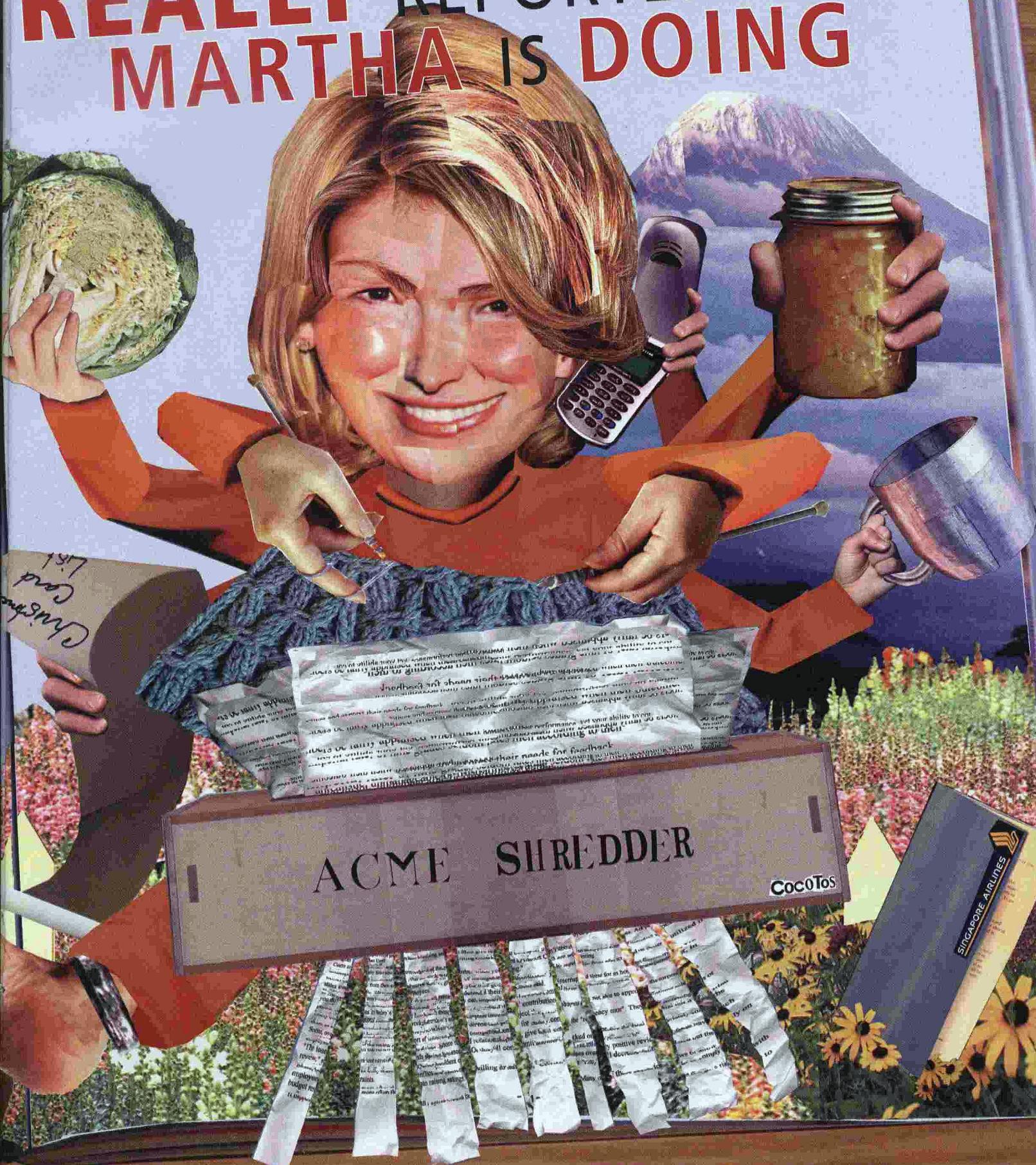
29 Spend day kicking self for being such a greedy idiot

23 Experiment with number fonts to see which look nicest stenciled on the front and back of garments

30 Climb Mt. Kilimanjaro again — but this time stay there!



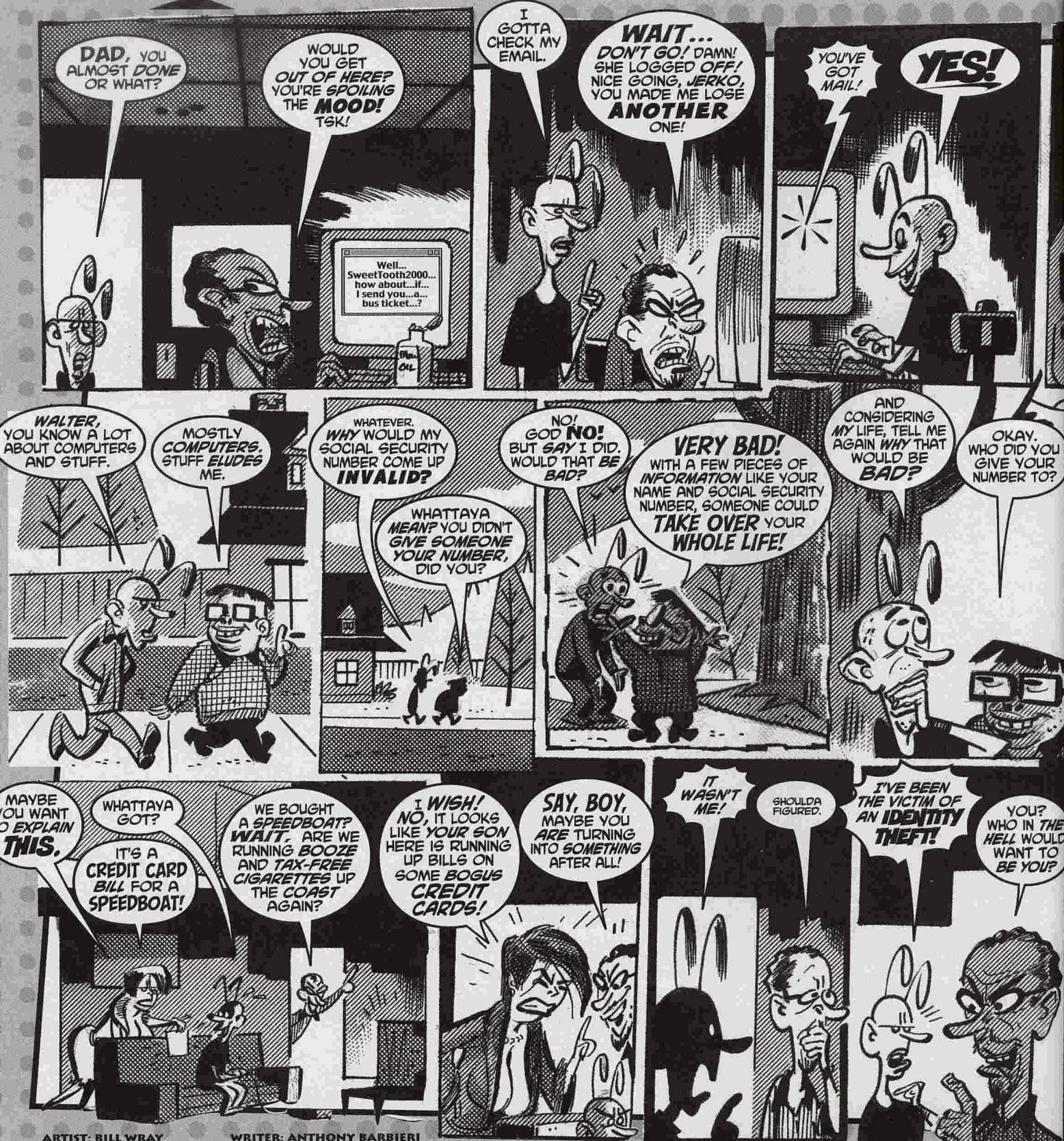
# REALLY REPORTED WHAT MARTHA IS DOING





Join us as Monroe learns that just being yourself isn't all it's cracked up to be. It's...

# Monroe and...



# IDENTITY THEFT



COME ON, MONROE. WE'LL FIX THIS UP, THEN WE CAN HIT THE SOUND OF MUSIC SINGALONG MATINEE.

AND WHEN DID YOU FIRST REALIZE SOMEBODY'S BEEN CLAIMING TO BE YOU?

HHMM, LET ME THINK, SIPOWICZ! MAYBE WHEN I GOT MY FIRST BAR TAB FROM THE BAHAMAS?!  
DO I LOOK TAN? DO I?

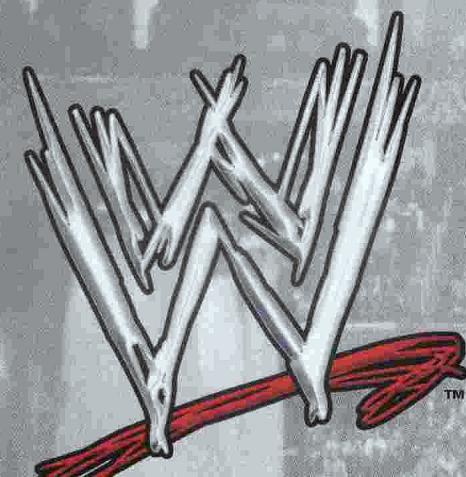
NEXT.

HE'S SORRY, MISTER. HE'S BEEN UNDER A LOT OF STRESS AND HE DOESN'T REALIZE HOW IMPORTANT HIS CREDIT RATING IS FOR HIS FUTURE!



# SUBSCRIBE NOW!

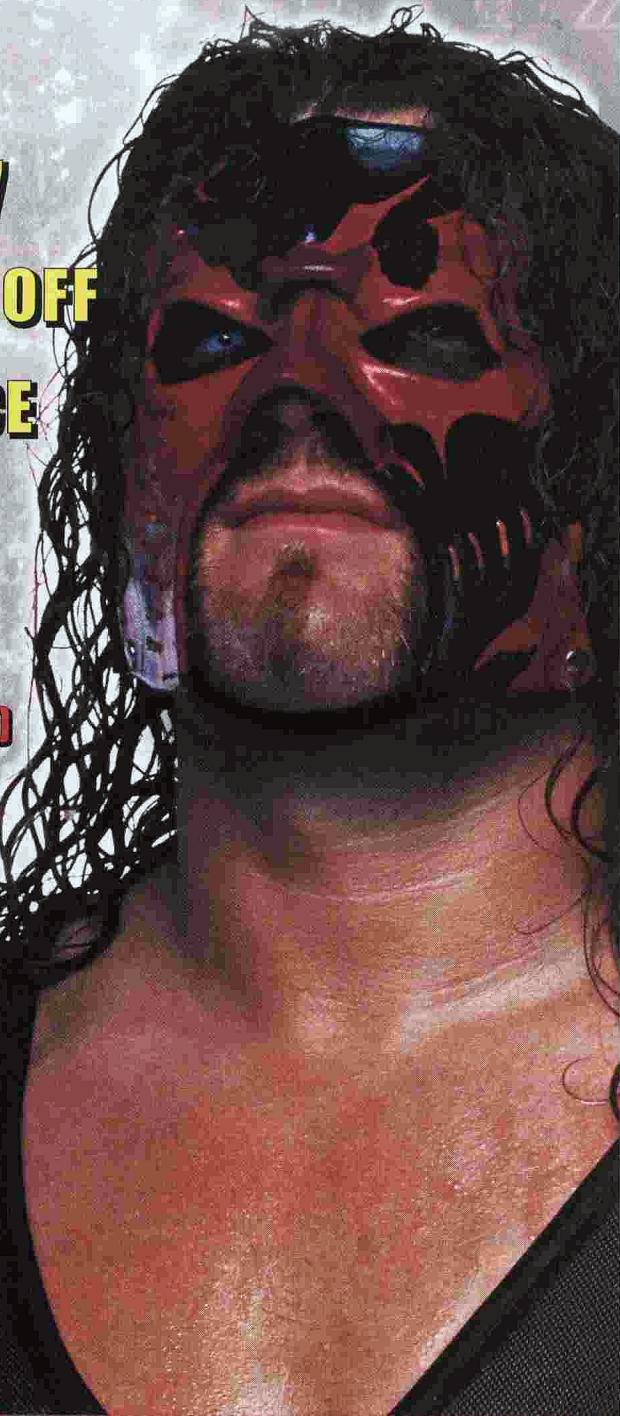
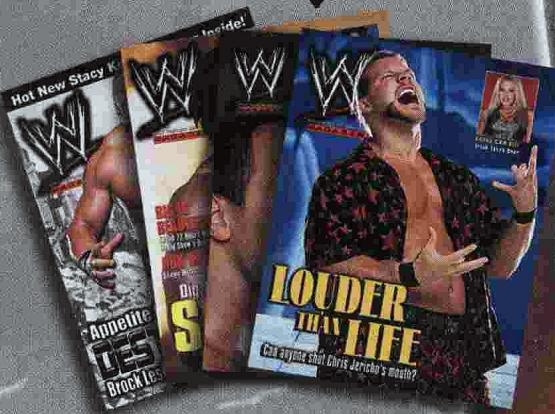
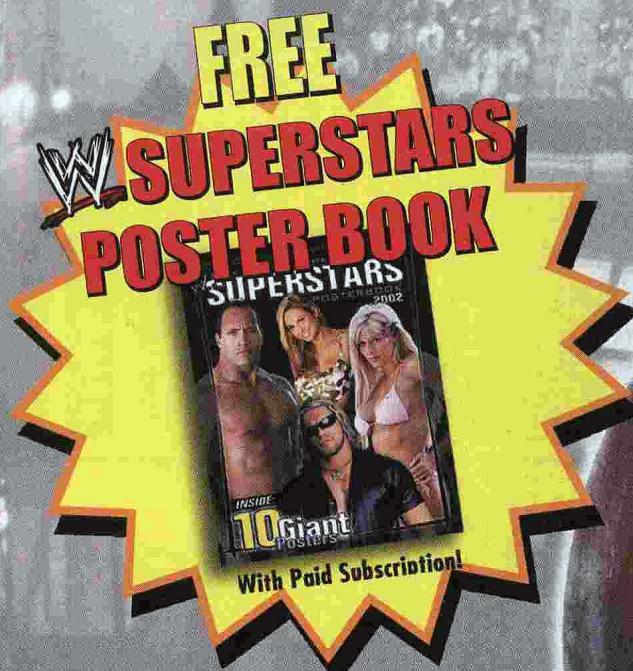
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# the BUNION

VOLUME 38 ISSUE 43

AMERICA'S PHONIEST NEWS SOURCE

IN THE NEWS  
Front Page

## Funny Hairdo, Muppet Reportedly Turns Otherwise Uninteresting Bush Photo "Wacky"

NEW YORK, NY — The additions of a funny hairdo and a Muppet have turned what many referred to as an uninteresting photo of President Bush into a hilariously "wacky" image. The original photograph, released last Monday, was downloaded from the official White House website. With the use of a standard computer graphics program, a bouffant hairdo was digitally added to his head. Pasted into the photo is an image of popular Muppet character Grover, who appears to be standing next to Bush.

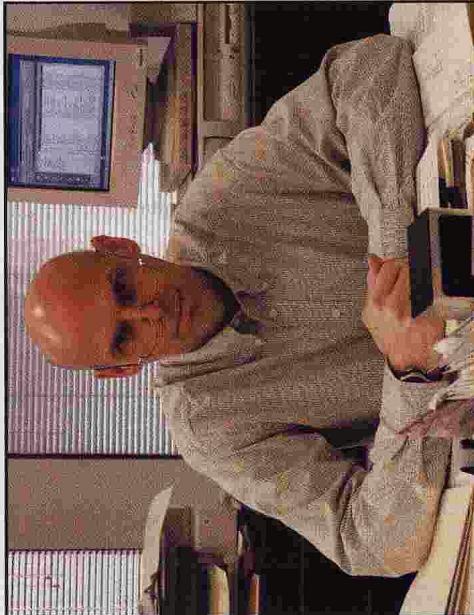
"We made the photo so wacky that we almost didn't need to write our usual overly-long and one-note gag news story to accompany it," laughed Bunion editor Tom Koehler.



Above: President Bush, seen here sporting a comically oversized woman's hairdo while standing next to popular children's character Grover, was in fact standing alone and had a traditionally short, conservative men's hairstyle at the time the actual photo was taken.

## Area Man Finds Headline Amusing But That's About It

TOP STORY



BETHESDA, MD — Ray Jeffries thought the headline to this story was kind of funny, but "that was about it." Jeffries, a legal assistant at a local law firm, admits to having become bored by what he describes as an "entirely predictable format." "The headline was kind of amusing, I guess. But then the article was just a rehash of the headline. What's the point?"

Above: Legal assistant Ray Jeffries often finds the headlines amusing, but the bodies of the articles lacking in substance. "The captions they run below the photos aren't much better," he says. Jeffries noted that it's not the first time he's had this reaction and that he previously chuckled at headlines involving the aging pope, a kindergarten class's bean sprout project and the Kool-Aid Man. "But basically it's all the same," he explains. "They shoot their wad with the headline and it's a lot of nothing after that." The 36-year-old considers himself a "fairly intelligent" person with a "reasonably good" sense of humor. "It's not that I don't get it. I can grasp subtlety. And I understand satire. But what more is there to say after you've led with, say, 'Ticketed Motorist Vows To Exact Revenge On Meter Maid With Caustic Barb In Memo Line Of Check?' That's the whole gag. Anything more is mere repetition."

Previous Issue Archive  
OTHER NEWS

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Archive

Some Guy In Mall Signs A Release To Pose For Picture To Run With Possibly Unflattering Mock News Story

Thirty Column Inches Of Text Used To Describe Fictional Middle-Class Woman In Dull Job Facing Uninteresting Dilemma, Maybe About Minor Nuisance In Break Room At Work Or Something

Ending Crazy Headline With Some Variation Of "Study Shows" Ensures Hilarity, Study Shows

Report: Starting Bizarre Headline With "Report" Apparently Even More Hilarious Than Ending With "Study Shows"

Retarded, Crippled People Head List Of Easy Targets For Zany Mock Articles For Third Consecutive Year

NEWS IN BRIEF

Inconsequential

Everyday

Occurrence

Covered With

Gravity.

Point-Counterpoint: Point-Counterpoint  
We've Kind Of Run This Feature Into

Unlike Words Phrases

# In Headline and Body of Story Make Some Articles Sorta Funny, Experts Say

ST. LOUIS, MO — A study issued by the Conference of American Journalism says that the simple act of using "a few well-chosen words can maybe turn a dry news story with, like, little humor potential, into one that's sorta funny. "It's a delicate balance," says panel spokesman Todd Aberline. "You've got to use a certain amount of standard news jargon but then every few lines, throw in a ringer." Experts note that you've totally got to watch the placement of the quotation marks as well, or you're screwed. "You definitely don't want to put your quotes around the incongruent word or phrase," Aberline explains. "That makes it look like you're quoting someone and that you, as the reporter, know the word wouldn't normally appear in that context in a standard newspaper article otherwise." According to the study, without the quotation marks, a really lame story can end up being pretty frickin' funny, and also way cool.

## CRAPshot

### A look at yet another rip-off of Letterman's Top Ten

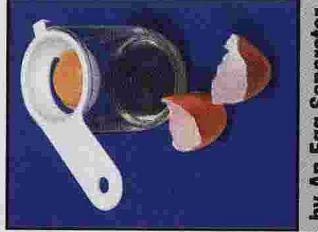
#### The Most Overused Themes On Our Website

1. Subject of article vaguely referred to as "Some Guy" in the headline
2. Offensive, sacrilegious news story featuring Christ as a normal person who just happens to live among us
3. Headline peppered with gratuitous curse words as the entire set-up and execution of a gag
4. News item about a well-known advertising character saying and doing things its corporate owners would not approve of
5. Typical advice feature attributed to an unlikely columnist who disregards the questions entirely and instead replies to each letter by expounding on his, her, or its area of expertise, literary style, or obsession
6. Thinly-veiled "humorous" take on a horrific tragedy done sooner after the actual event than good taste would dictate

# The Ground, If You Ask Me

You know, these debates were funny at first. But they've become very predictable. And here's why: Generally, the first viewpoint puts forth a reasonable, logical argument in favor or in support of something, anything, whatever. Fine. All straight lines. Very dry. That's the set-up. Then comes the opposing side and — zing! — it's completely nuts. While the first part is written by a person, the second part is written, we're supposed to believe, by a squirrel, or an appliance, or Jesus, or some crap. Okay, okay, I know that's not how it always is, but we've used this formula enough times that frankly, even I'm a little sick of it. Sure, it was novel four years ago, but how 'bout we try something new, huh? Or just dump this format altogether.

## Oh, Come On! I'm An Egg Separator, For God's Sake! That Right There Is Funny!



by An Egg Separator

Look, I'm an inanimate object and I'm delivering the opposing viewpoint to your argument! Don't you get it? It's frickin' hilarious! I can't really talk or think, nor do I have the physical ability to put words on the page or computer screen. But that doesn't change the fact that here I am, arguing against your position and telling you that, yes, these debates are incredibly funny! Why? Because I'm a kitchen utensil, and not only do I have an opinion, but apparently it's such a strong opinion that I feel compelled to respond to you by totally flying off the handle! That's hilarious! A plastic doo-dad from your junk drawer actually getting upset! Instead of pitting your lame-ass argument against the rants of another person, the rebuttal is being written by me, (once again) an EGG SEPARATOR. Too damn funny!

## EDITORIAL



Why Running An Editorial Attributed To Someone You Wouldn't Expect To Be Writing An Editorial On A Trivial Subject That Normally Doesn't Warrant An Editorial Is So Damn Funny Week After Week by Nelson Mandela

# Detachment

BOULDER, CO — An inconsequential everyday occurrence was covered today with the gravity and detachment normally associated with a serious, substantial news item.

Jim Grout, a one-hour photo service employee, got a particularly bad static electricity shock when touching his bedroom doorknob after shuffling back from the bathroom at approximately 2:37 this morning. "Son-of-a-bee, it really woke me up," Grout, 51, told reporters. "I was half-asleep, then zap! Talk about a rude awakening."

Despite the noise of the shock seeming "very loud" to Grout, his wife, Kay, 49, slept undisturbed through the ordeal. "I had no idea anything happened until he mentioned it at breakfast," she explained as though the incident were indeed newsworthy. Experts describe this phenomenon as a form of "irony." "A 'nothing' occurrence will be written about with all the unbiased objectivity and seriousness of a major event," notes Dr. David Jeschke, a legitimate-sounding person who in fact doesn't exist, "while important news will be covered as a human interest piece or incredibly conversationally." While irony can be very effective, Jeschke notes, its overuse in some formats can become "terribly repetitious and one-note." He points to the popular online website...

[Full Text >>](#)



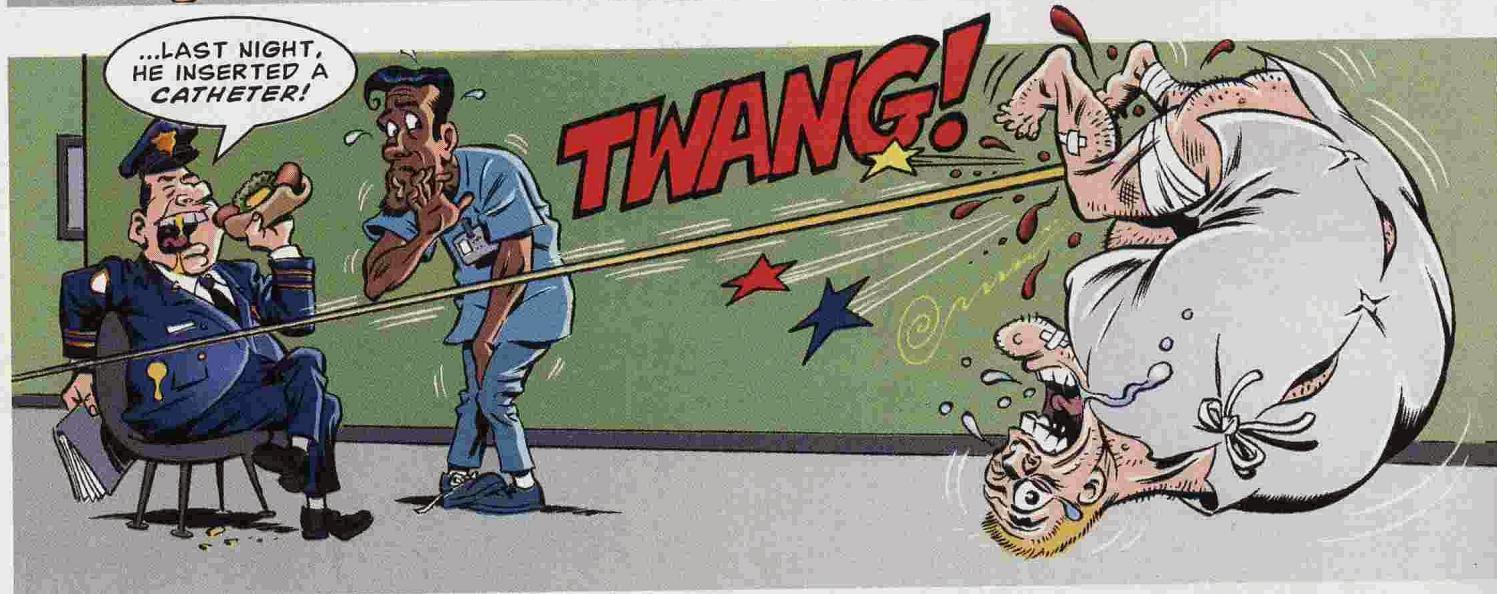
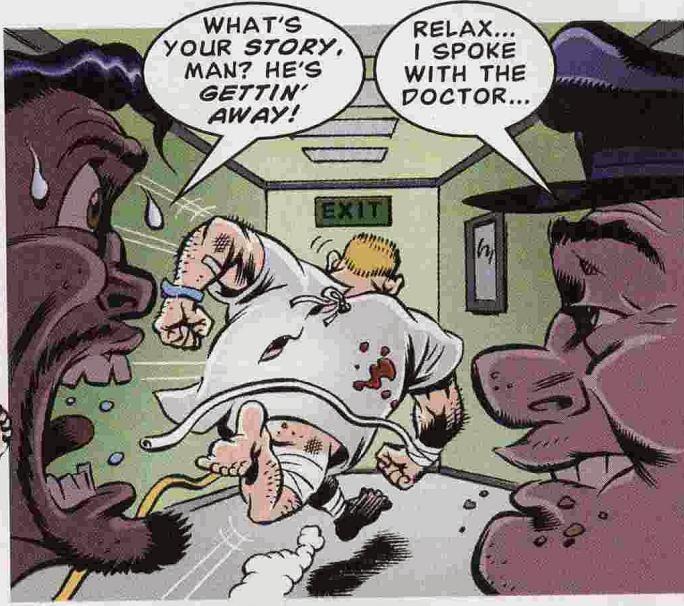
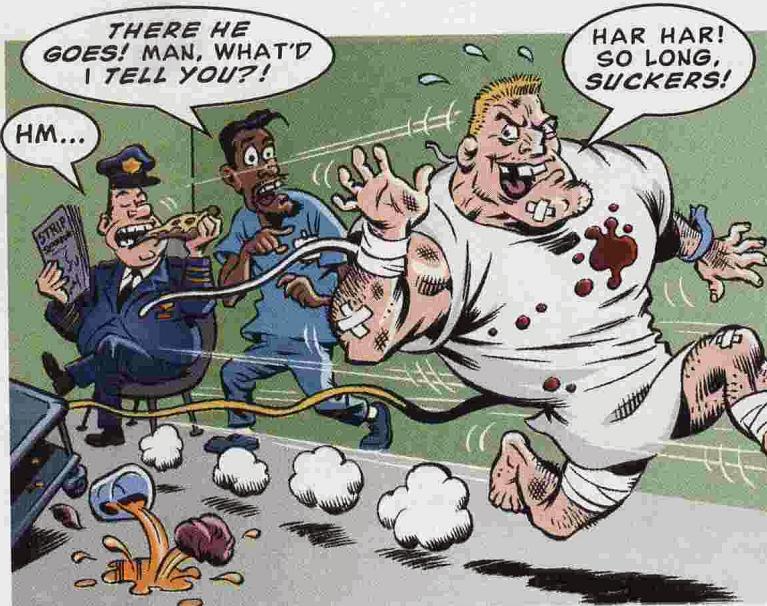
by Mark Foster

ARTIST: SCOTT BRICHER WRITER: SCOTT MAIKO PHOTOS: IRVING SCHILD & AP/WIDE WORLD PHOTOS



FLEE CIRCUS DEPT.

# ONE FINE DAY IN THE HOSPITAL



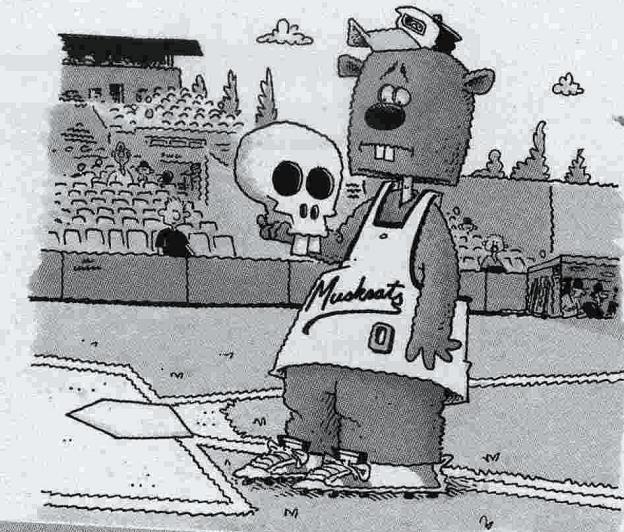
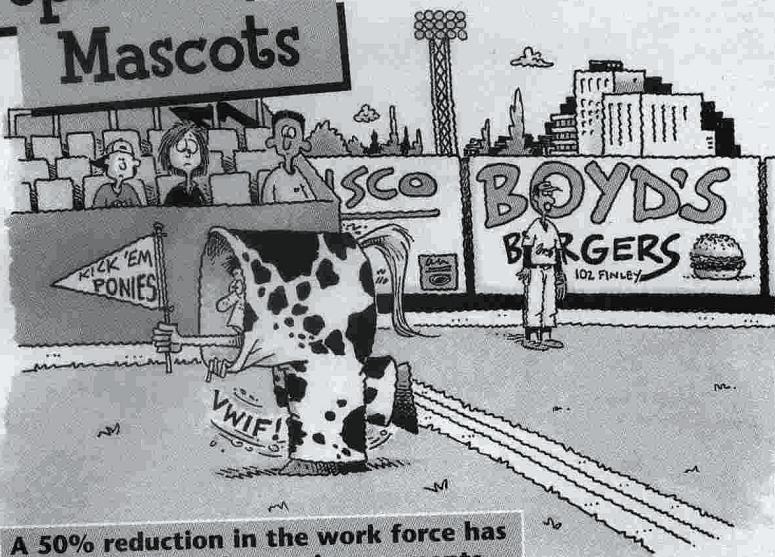
In economic terms, a recession is defined as two consecutive quarters of negative growth. For corporate America, this means belt tightening, personnel downsizing and salary freezing. But what, you may ask, is the toll on the small businessman? How is the average Mom and Pop operation riding the tide of this difficult business cycle? How the hell should we know? Who died and made us Lou Dobbs? It was all we could do to figure out...

# HOW THE ECONOMIC RECESSION IS AFFECTING CERTAIN FRINGE BUSINESSES

Instructors have been forced to boost revenues with Amway distributorships.



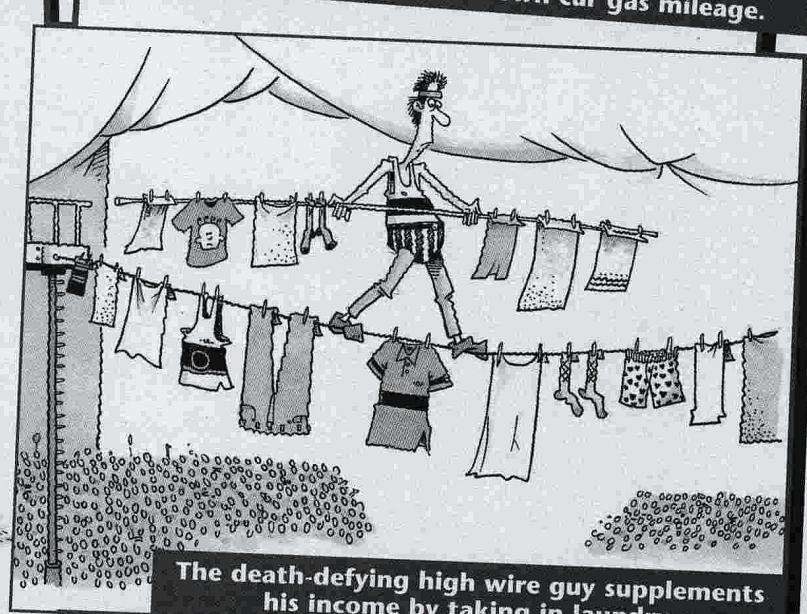
## Sports Mascots



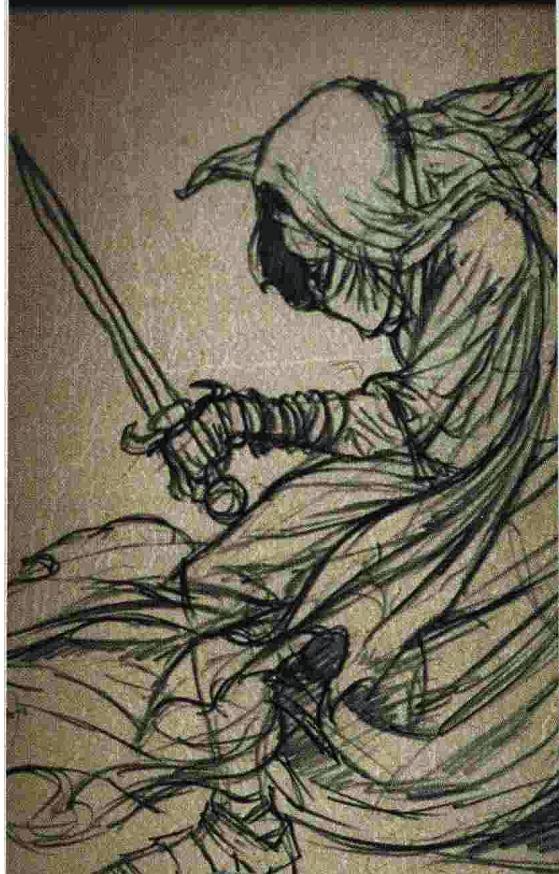
## Circus Folk



Passenger numbers have been drastically cut in an effort to improve clown car gas mileage.



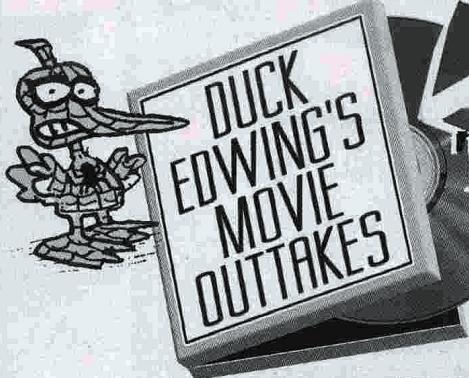
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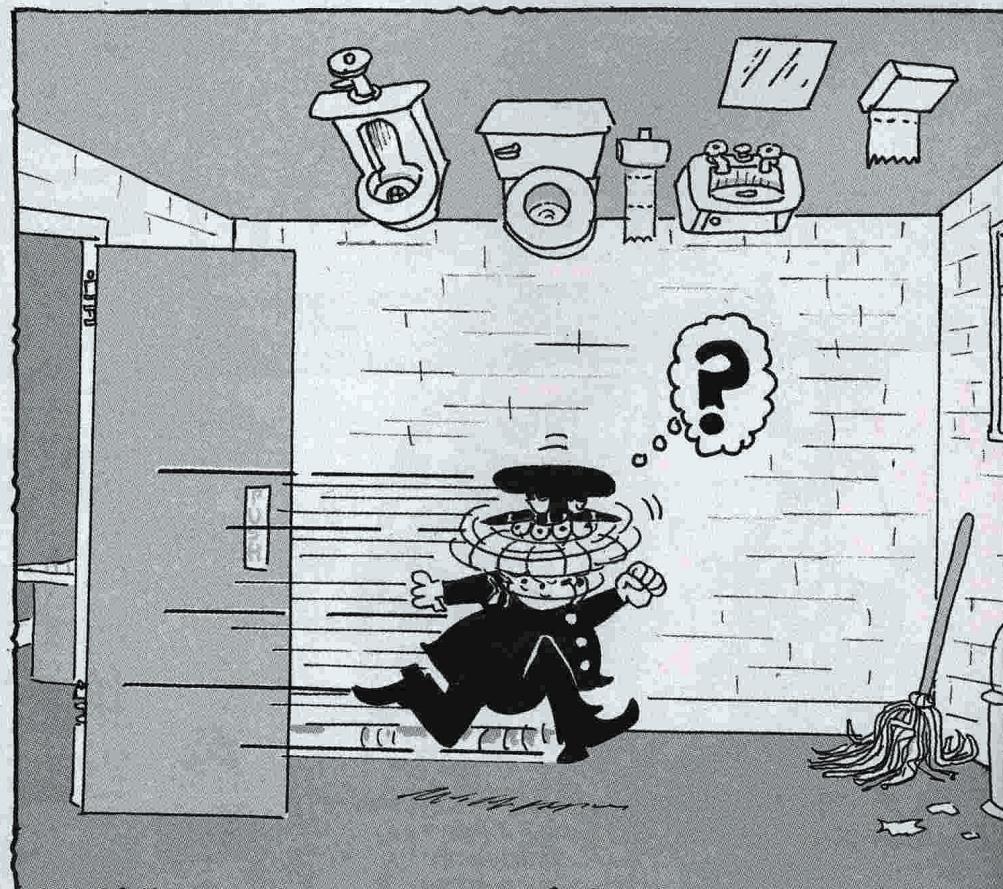
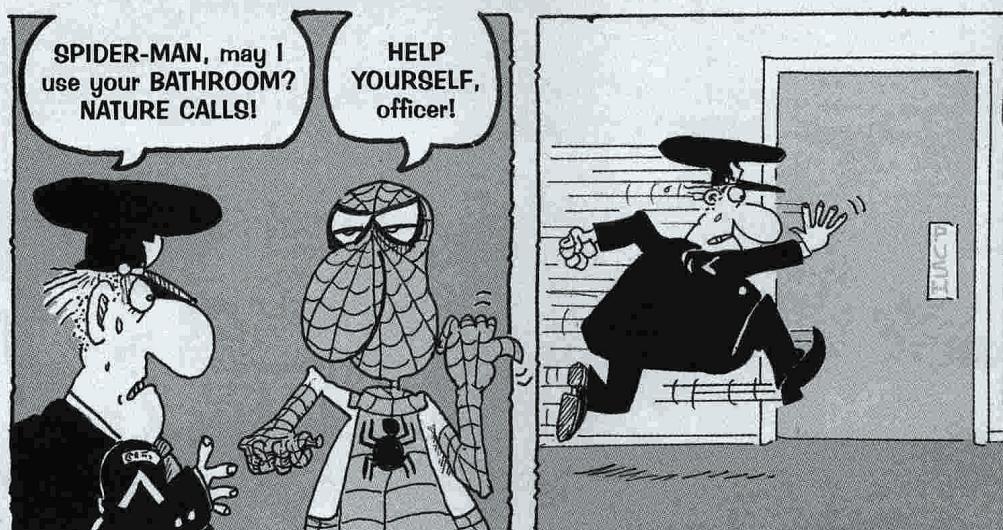
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WEB-STINGER DEPT.



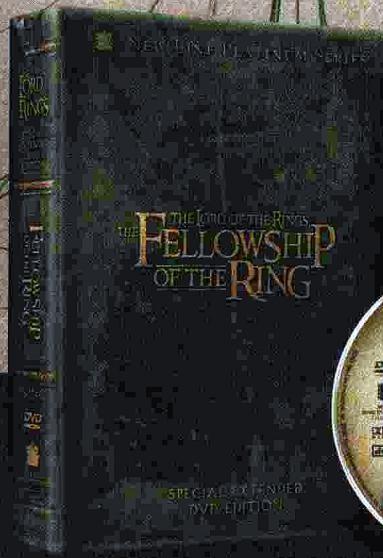
# SCENES SO BAD THEY DIDN'T EVEN MAKE THE DVD

THIS MONTH: **SPIDER-MAN**



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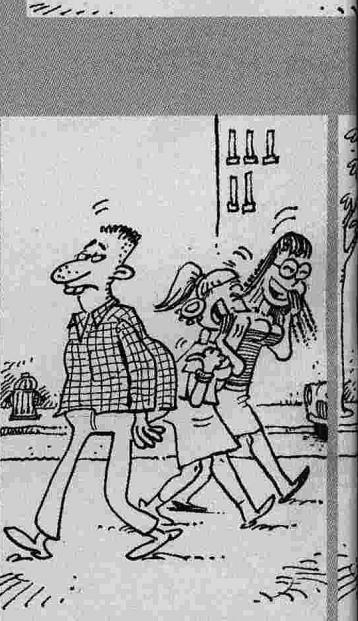
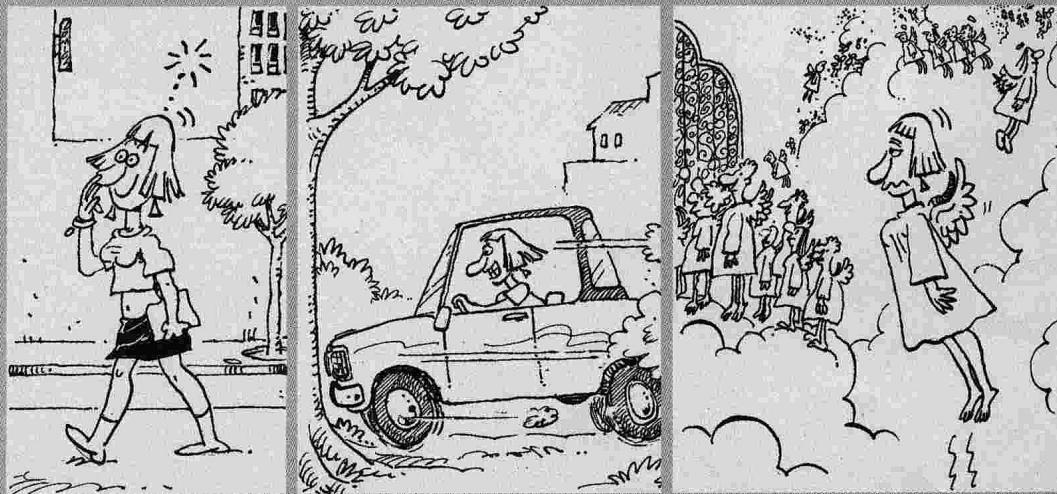
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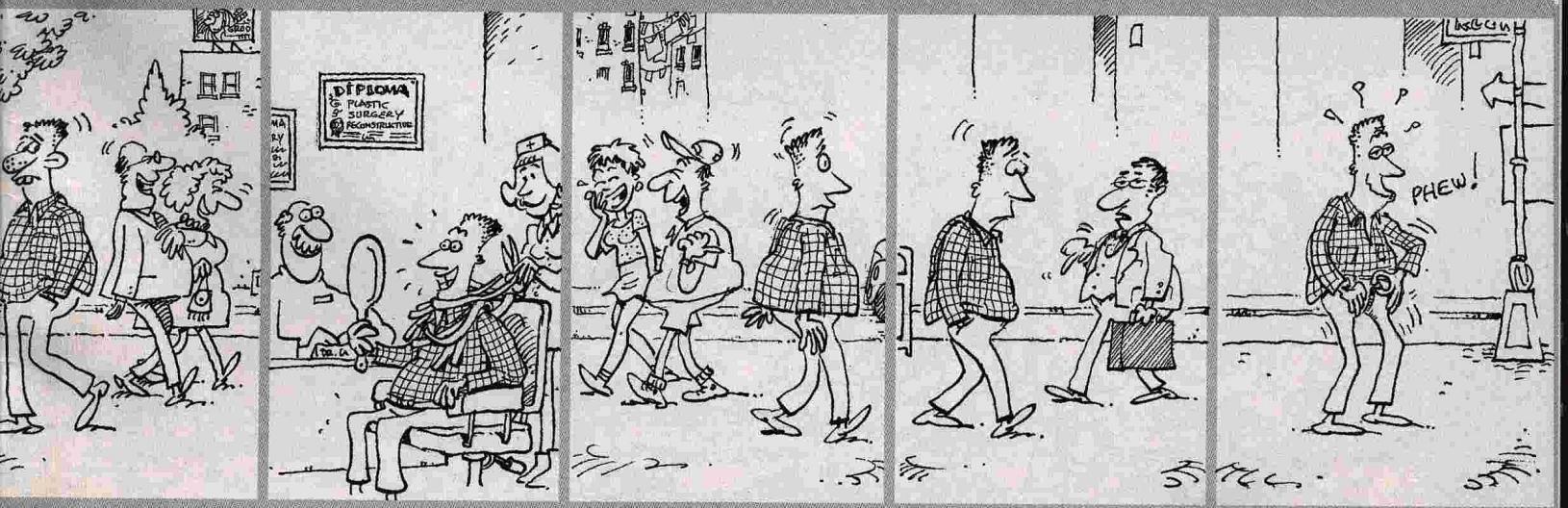
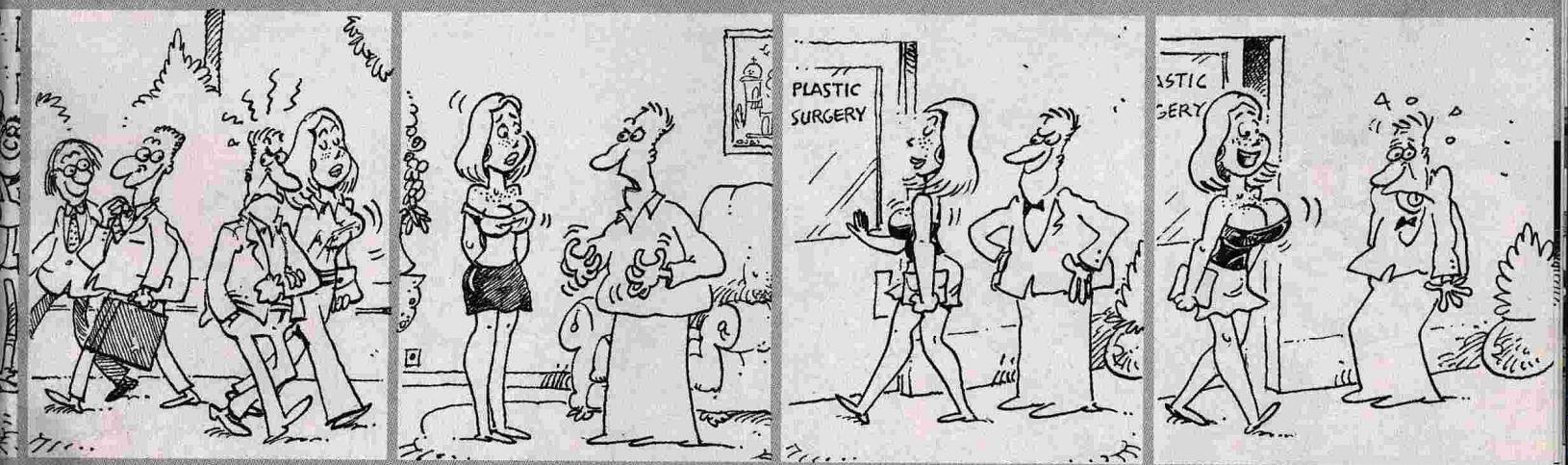
SERGE-IN GENERAL DEPT.

# ANOTHER MAD LOOK

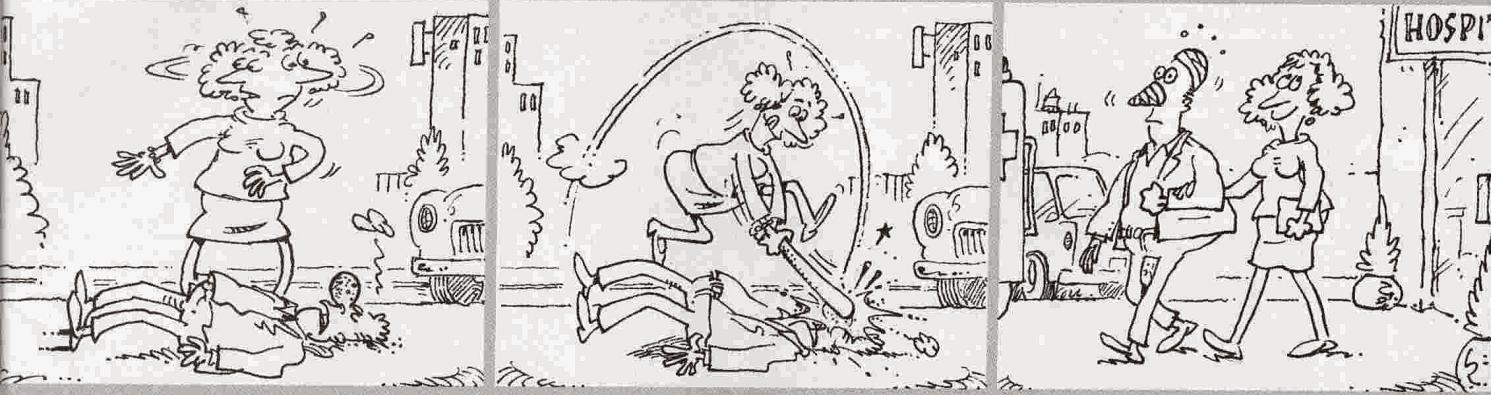


ARTIST & WRITER: SERGIO ARAGONES

# AT PLASTIC SURGERY









## CROP CIRCLE JERKS DEPT.

It's easy to make a wildly entertaining summer blockbuster! Take a thrilling script, add a captivating leading man, throw in some creepy crop circles and—bambo! — you've got a hit! But, what if the story is the umpteenth knock-off of *Close Encounters of the Third Kind*? And what if your star looks like he just woke from a 14-month nap? And what if the crop circles were lame after the 100th preview? Then you've got problems — and the studio's got nothing but a 2-hour dud filled with their painfully failed...

I keep waking up in the middle of the night with a terrible feeling something is wrong. It's almost as if I have a *Sixth Sense* that something bad is happening in my corn-fields! I've been so edgy since my wife died. I blame God for taking her, but I suppose the guy in the truck who mowed her down didn't exactly help! When she passed on, I decided there is no God!

That's when I left my position as Minister at Saint Dubious!

When my brother lost his wife, he went into a deep depression, so I moved up here to be with him. Since I got here, a big problem's developed. His kids seem to like me more than him! I guess it's because I pay more attention to them, and that I care enough about them to learn their first names! I'm a touch depressed, too. I've been unable to find employment in my specialized field of "failed baseball players"! I was a star slugger, then one day my baseball career was suddenly over. I guess a 6-foot, 24-year-old weighing 200 pounds can fool Little League officials for only so long! Damn!

We woke up this morning and found these huge designs in our cornfield. I told my dad I thought God did it. My dad said God probably did do it, because God has plenty of time on his hands to screw around, now that he no longer chooses to answer people's prayers!

I HATE CORN...

8



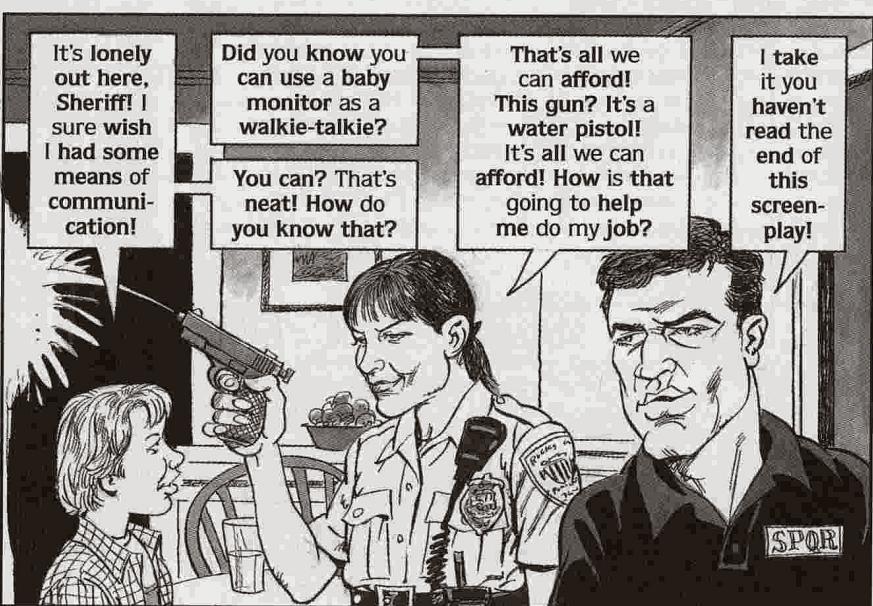
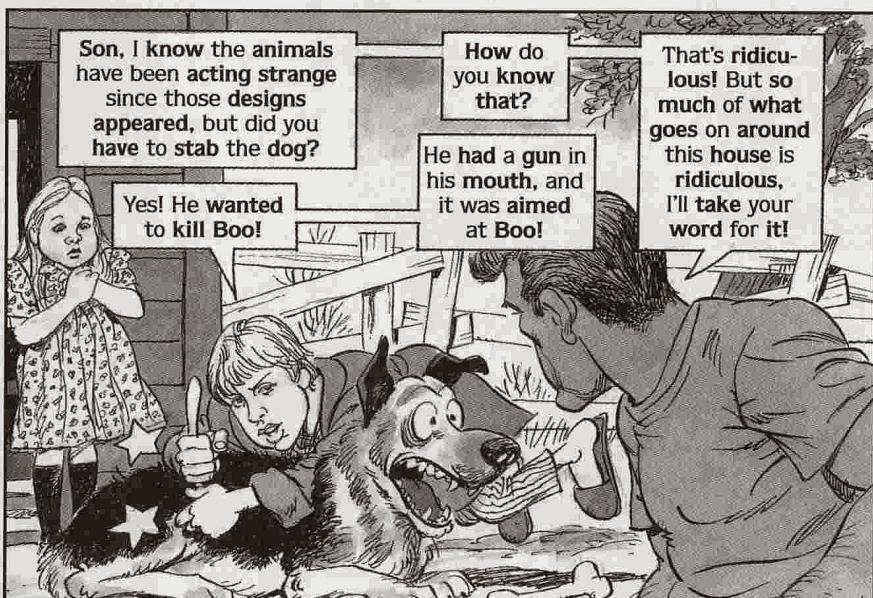
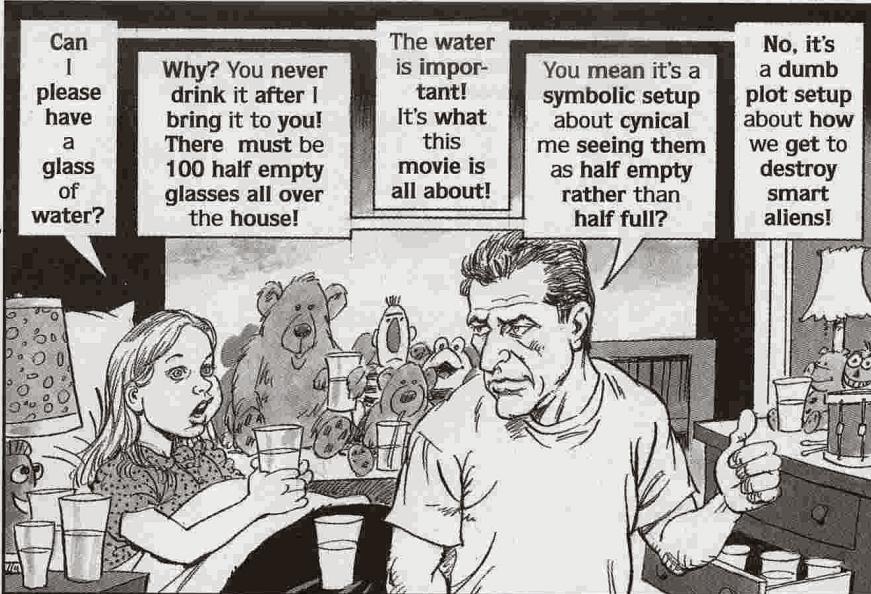
n s

It's true! My daddy is quite mad at God. I know because of the prayer he taught me to say when I go to bed: "Now I lay me down to sleep, not that you give a flying @#\$% about it!"

I miss my mommy, but I still talk to her. She doesn't answer me, because she's dead. I talk to my daddy, too. He never answers me, either. I'd like to know what *his* excuse is!



Looking at these strange crop circles in the cornfields raises quite a few weird questions about this farm and the family that owns it! Like, how can they grow acres and acres of corn when they don't even own a tractor? Think about it! Have you seen one? I haven't even seen a rake or a hoe! Hell, no one has even seen them eat an ear of corn! It's weird, I tell you! Speaking of corn, let's get on with our story...



I'm trying to watch TV, but they're showing the same program on every station!

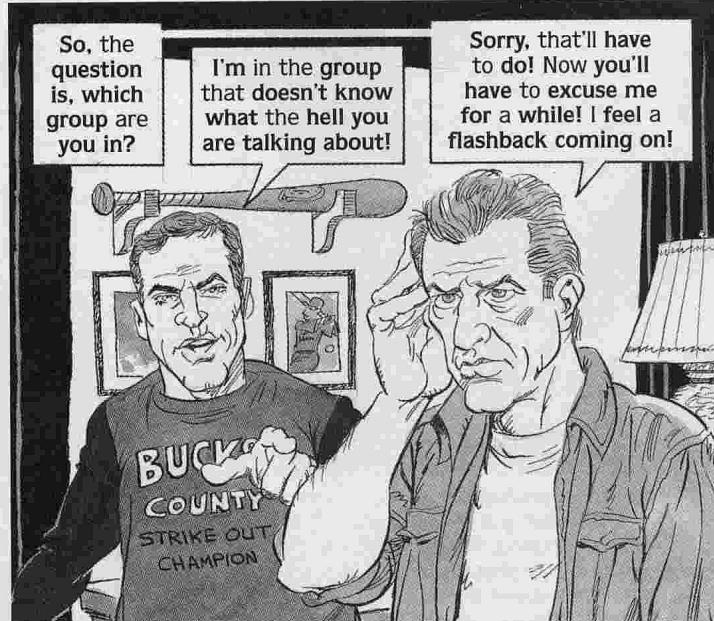
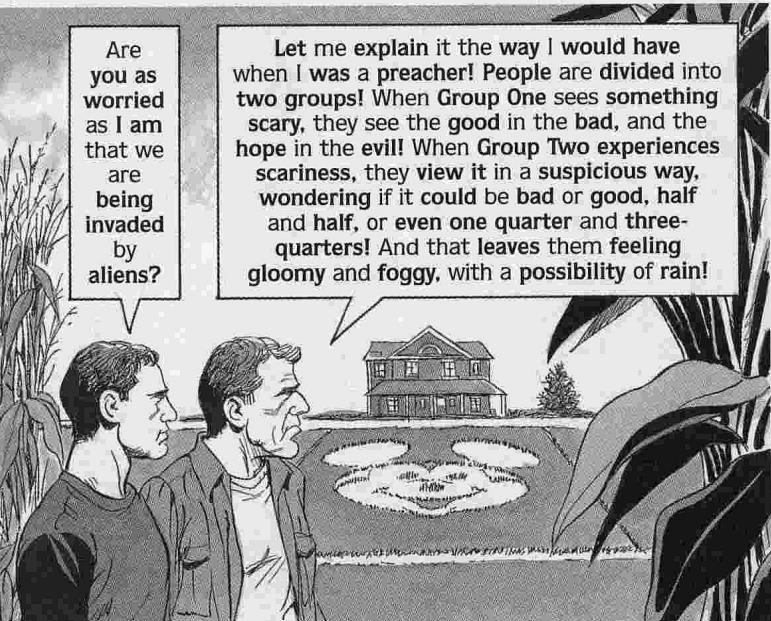
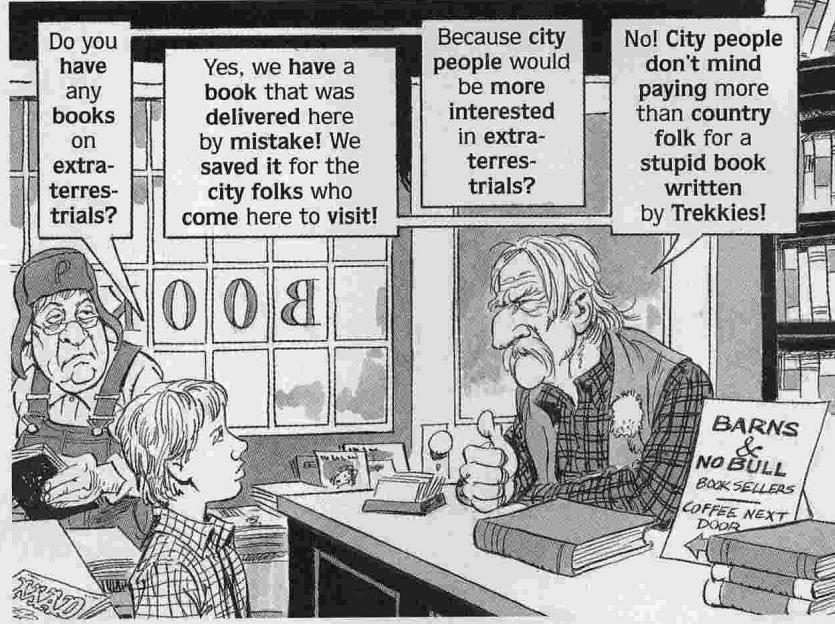
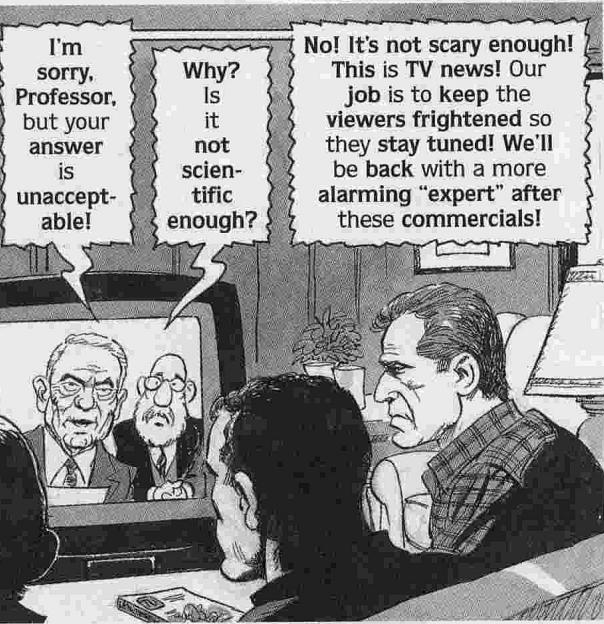
I know, honey, but that's what TV has come to! Not a shred of originality!

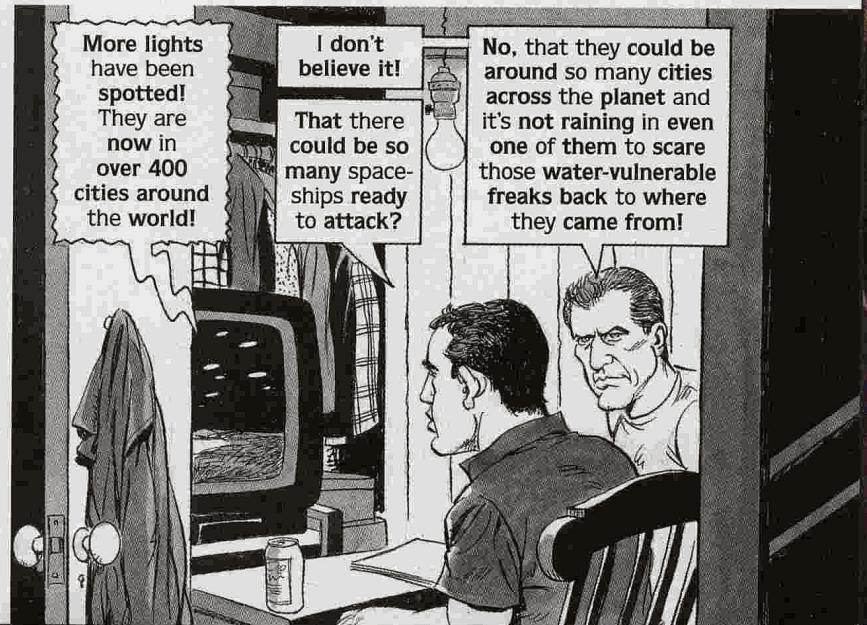
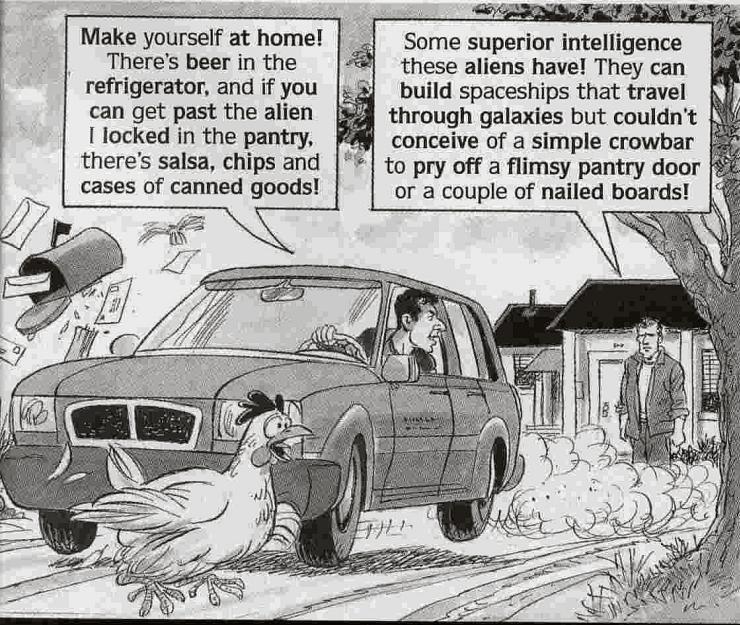
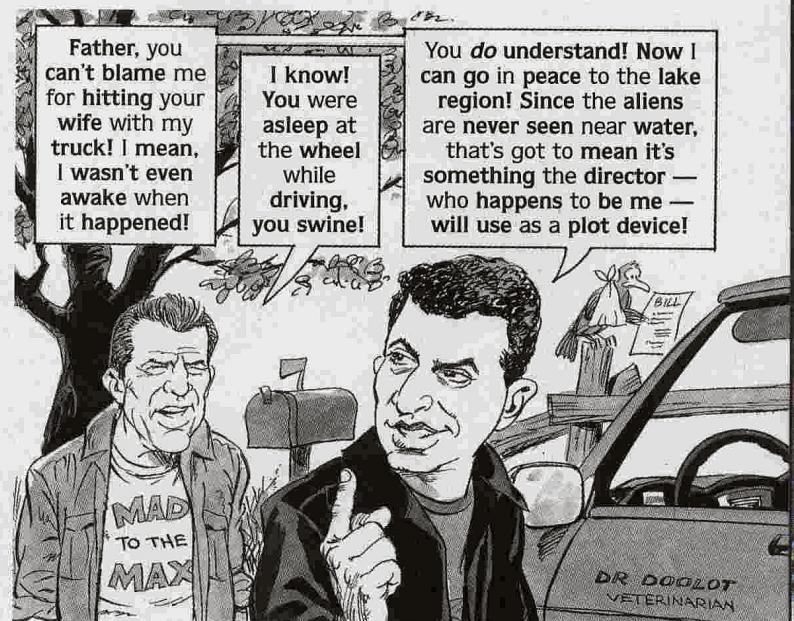
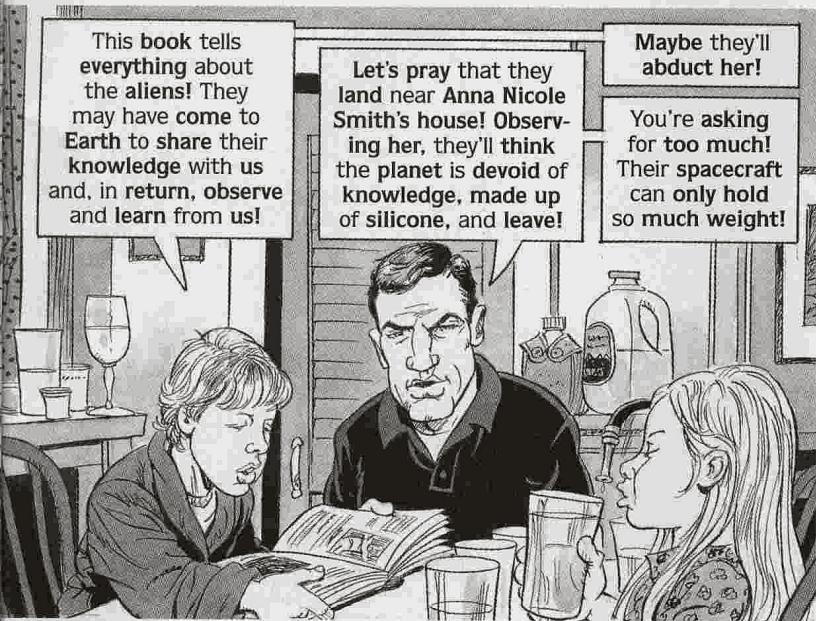
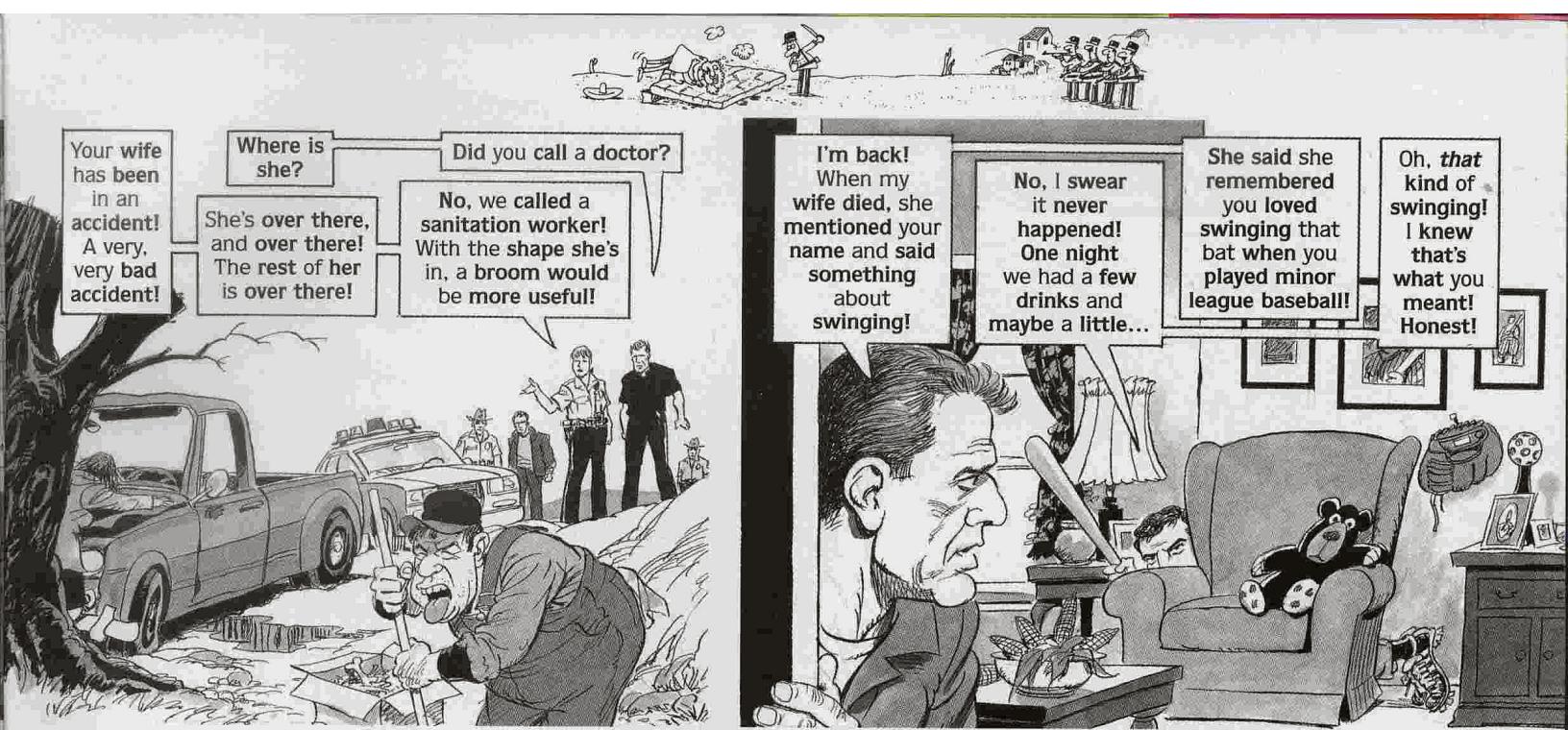
No, I mean exactly the same show on every station!

That's sure gonna make life easy for the Nielson Ratings people!

With crop circle sightings reported around the world, the question is, how can so many acres be perfectly leveled without the apparent use of machinery? Crop circle expert, Professor Michael Sommers, how do you answer that?

Nowadays, when people see a field of corn, they wonder if there are any aliens in it! By the hundreds, they roam, looking! They don't find any aliens! They leave! Gone! But from the air — hey, a new crop circle!





This may be our final meal, so I'm going to get on the phone and order anything that anybody wants! Anything! Price doesn't matter!

That's a nice thought, but when the guy comes out here to deliver the food, the aliens will kill him!

Why do you think I said, "price doesn't matter"? While the aliens are distracted eating the delivery man, we open the door, grab the food and lock them out again! It'll be a free meal!

Uh oh! I hear someone on the roof!

They'll find us! The aliens can read our every thought!

So what? The audience can predict every scene!

The lights went out!

Leave them out!

Who said that?

Me! Angelo Torres, the MAD artist! I need a break from this stupid movie and a black scene would be perfect!

The alien is breathing poison gas on your son!

It's not exactly poison gas!

What is it, then? It smells lethal!

That's what you get when you lock someone in a pantry stacked with 50 cans of beans!

Get the alien! Keep swinging away like my dying wife told me in a moment of intense superficiality!

I am! Did you see that hit? Wow! That was my most powerful shot ever! I knocked him clear over Costner's corn field!

Yes, but that was my son! Hit the alien, you jerk!

He broke all my not-coincidental glasses of water and it's destroying the alien!

Help! Help me! I'm melting... I'm melting...

I like what I'm seeing, Grunt! You're putting on the black garments!

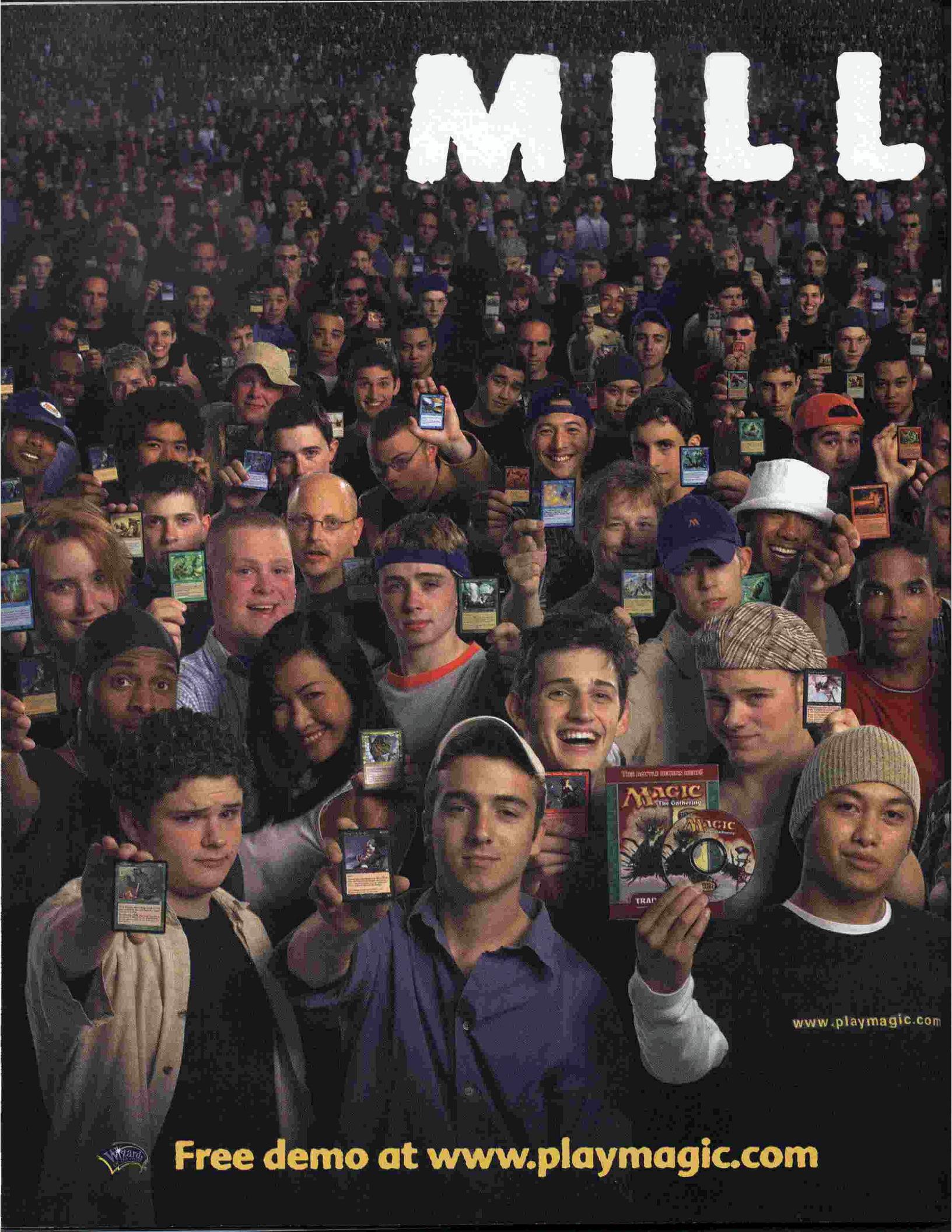
Daddy, are you going to preach again?

Hell, no! I'm going where the real money is in the alien movie world! I'm joining Tommy Lee Jones and Will Smith as the third Man In Black!



THE FIRST  
THE BEST  
THE FEW

# MILL

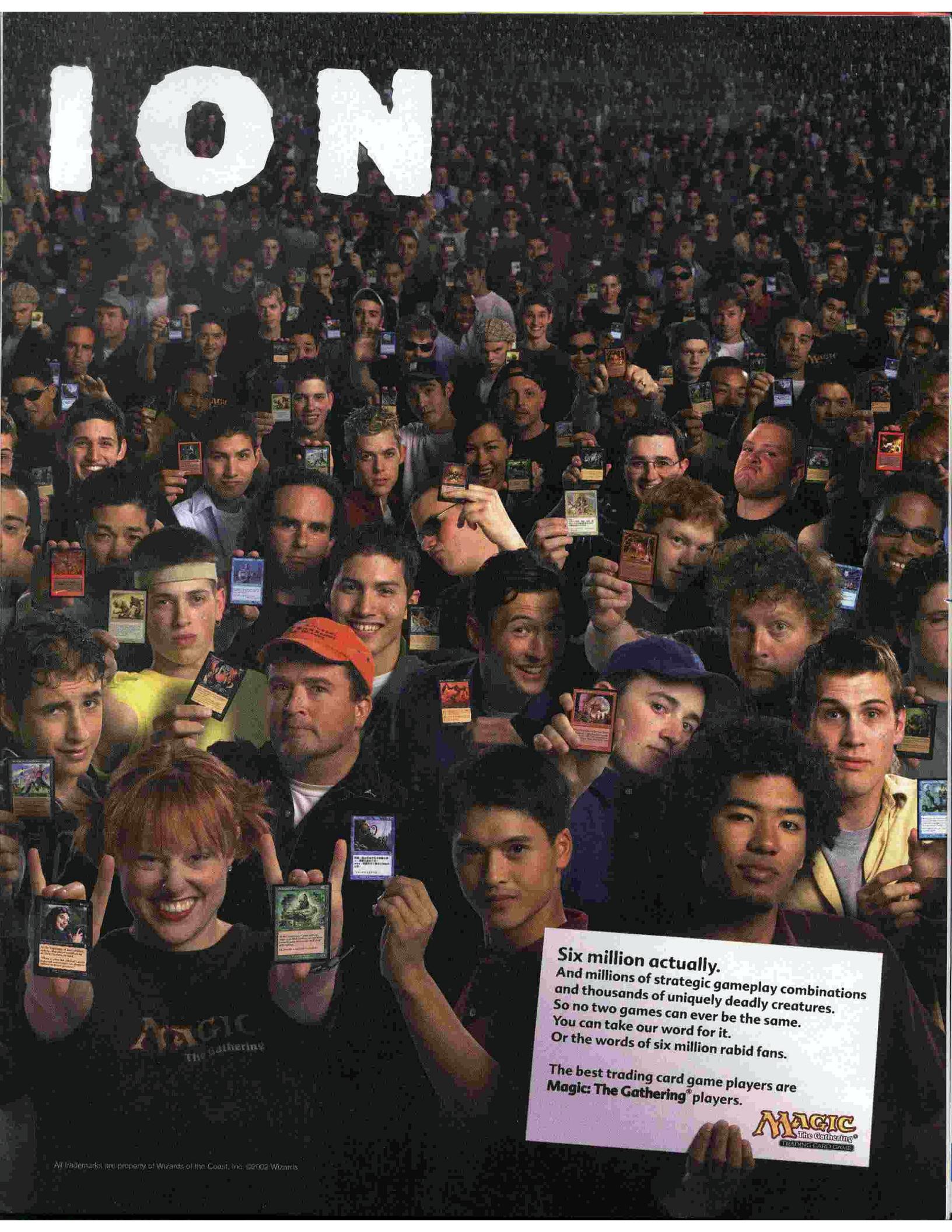


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**Magic: The Gathering®** players.

**MAGIC**  
The Gathering  
TRADING CARD GAME



JOKE AND DAGGER DEPT.

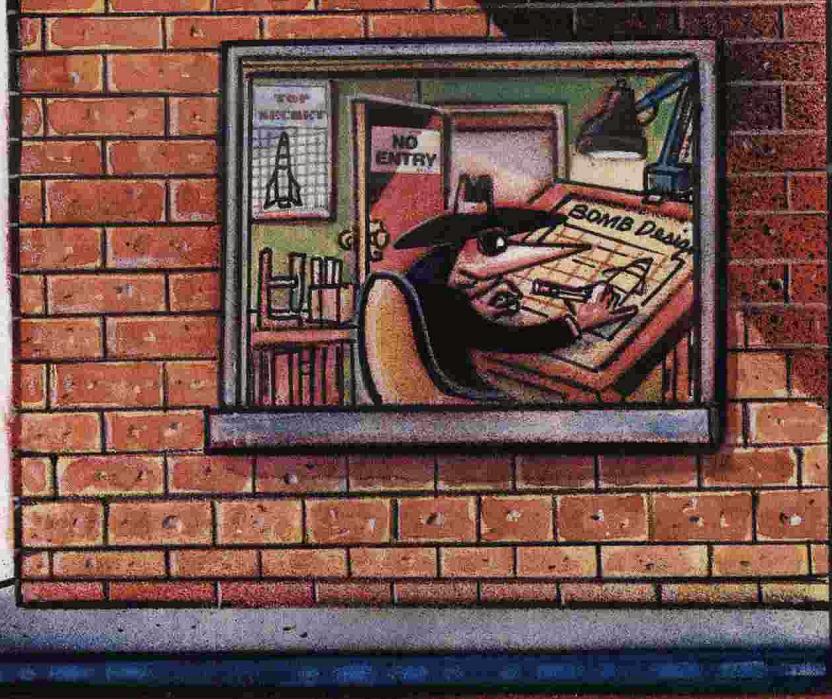
# SPY

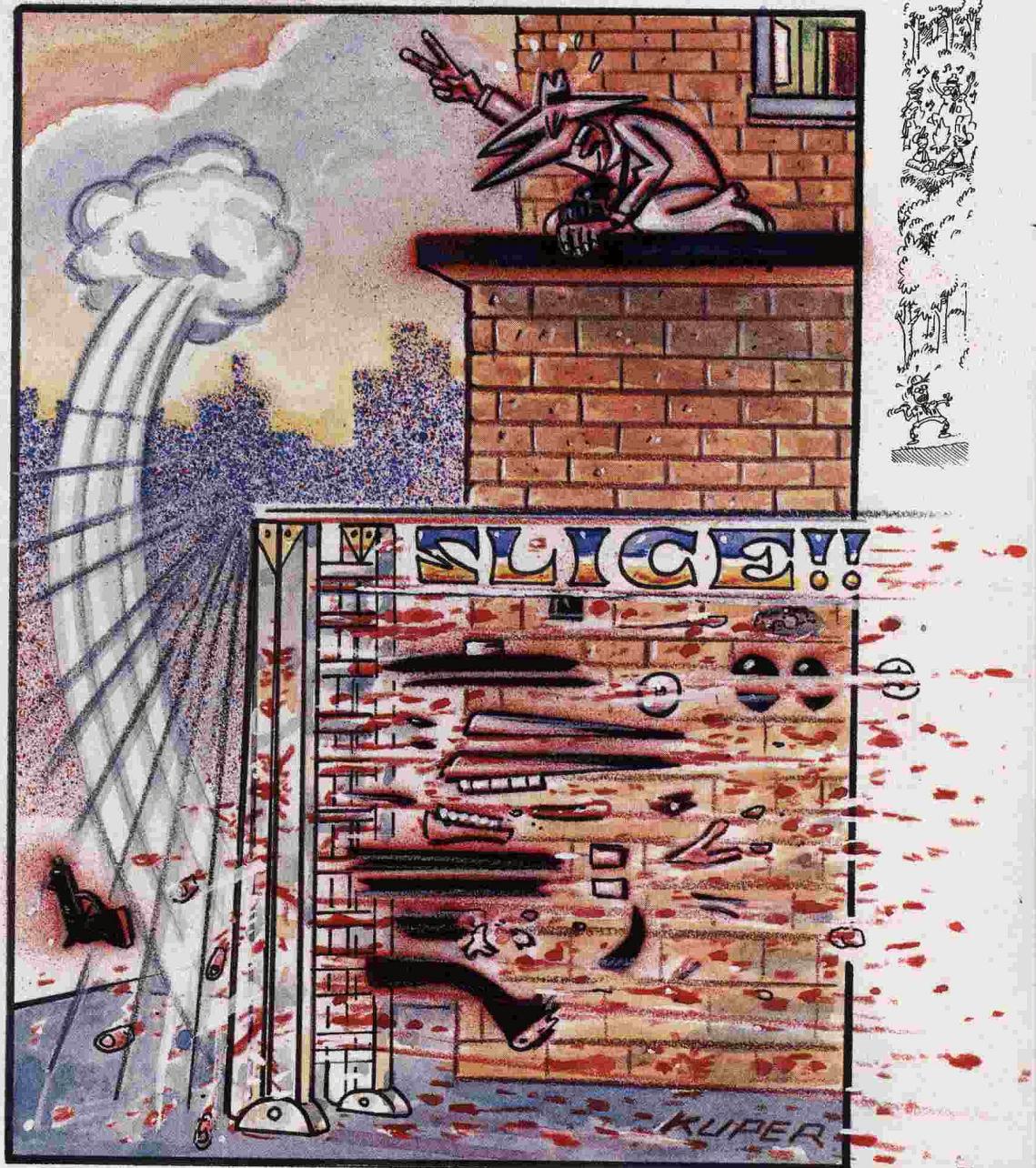
VS

# SPY

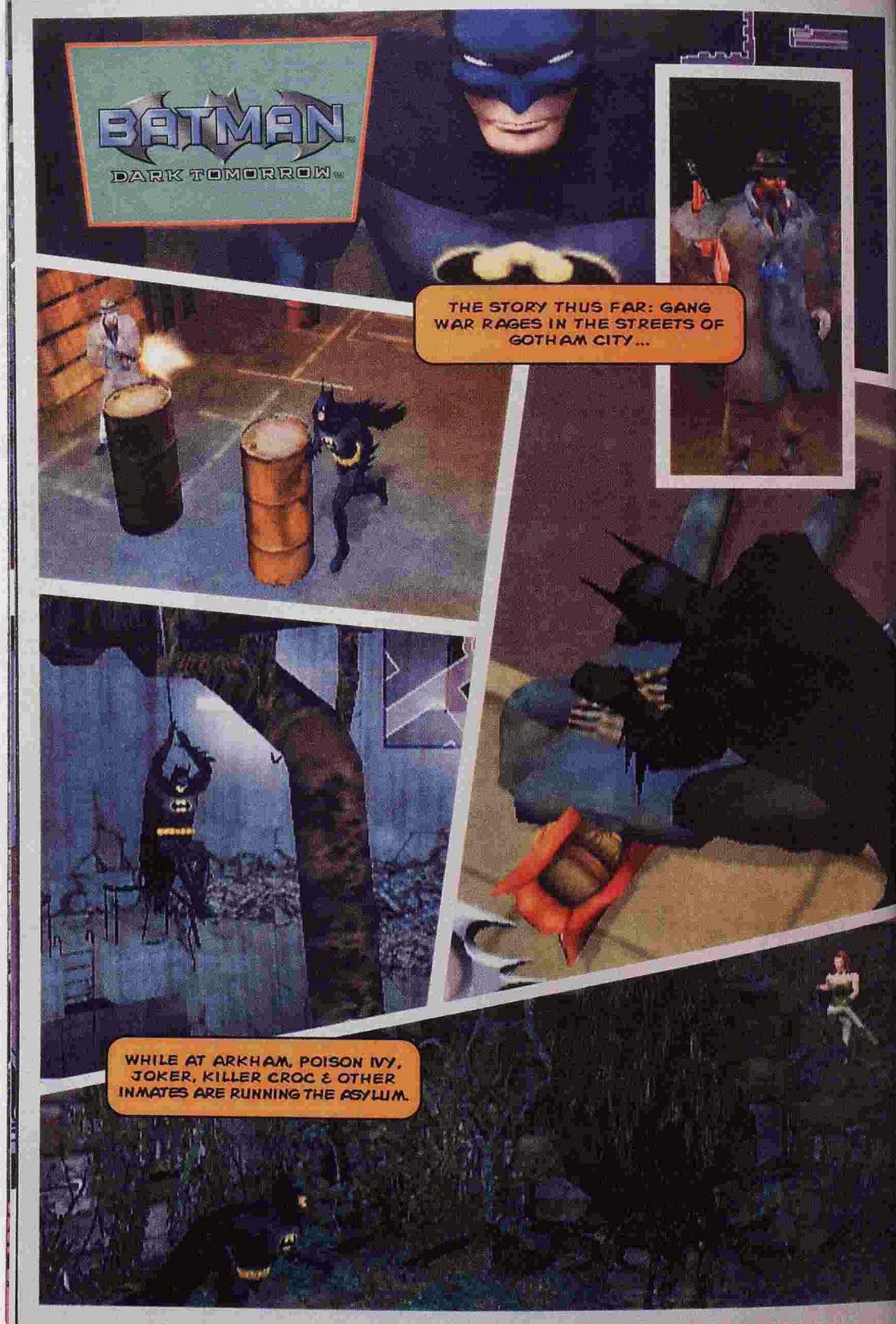


ARTIST AND WRITER: PETER KUPER



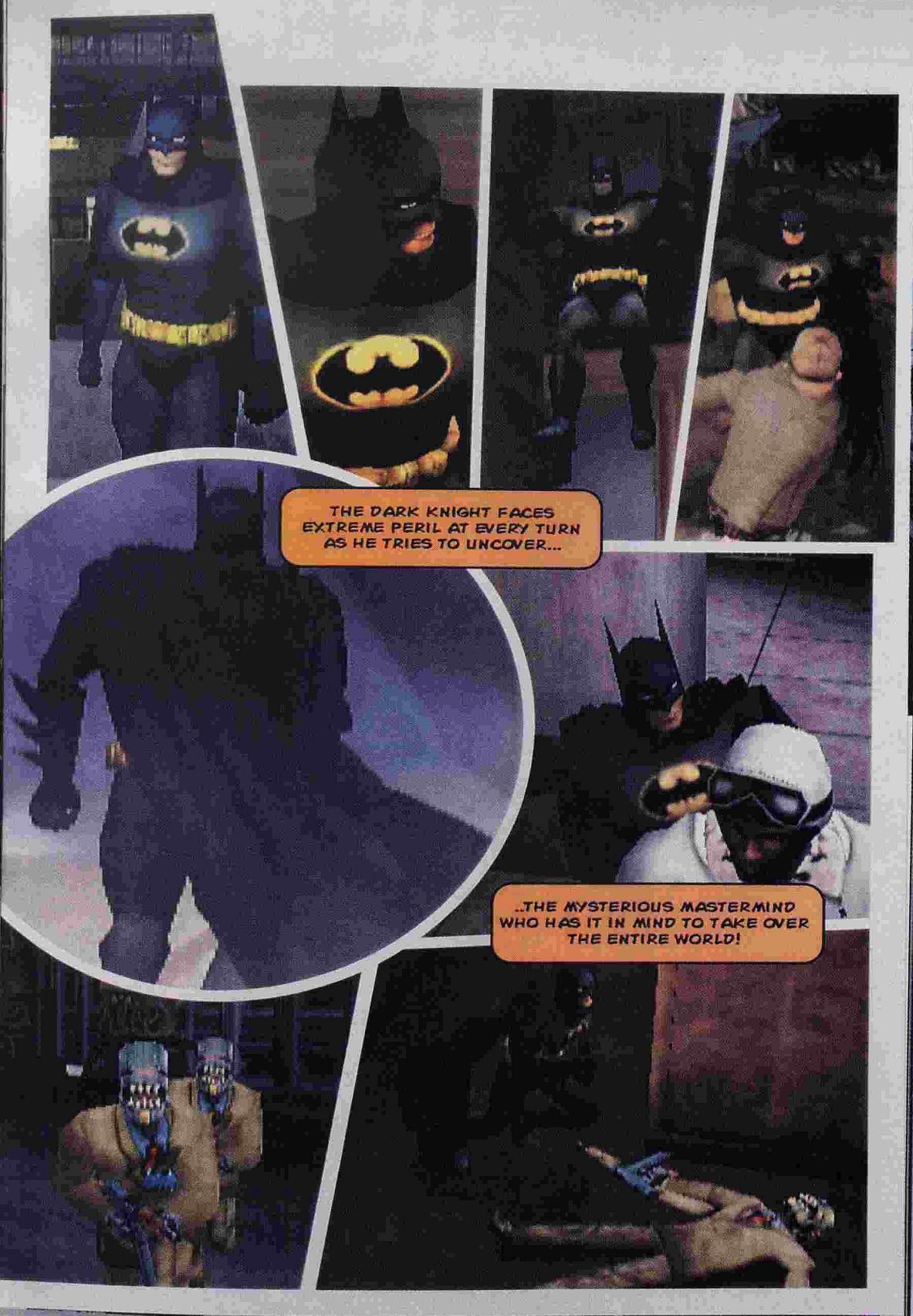


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Inspired by DC Comics, Batman: Dark Tomorrow pits a tougher, darker Dark Knight against the Joker, Mr. Freeze, Poison Ivy, Killer Croc, Black Mask, the Ventriloquist & Scarface, and





coming soon



coming soon



coming soon



Violence

**KEMCO**®

more, written by Scott Peterson (Batman writer) and Kenji Terada (Final Fantasy I, II & III). A collectors' edition DC comic is included to set the stage. But to Batman, this is no game!

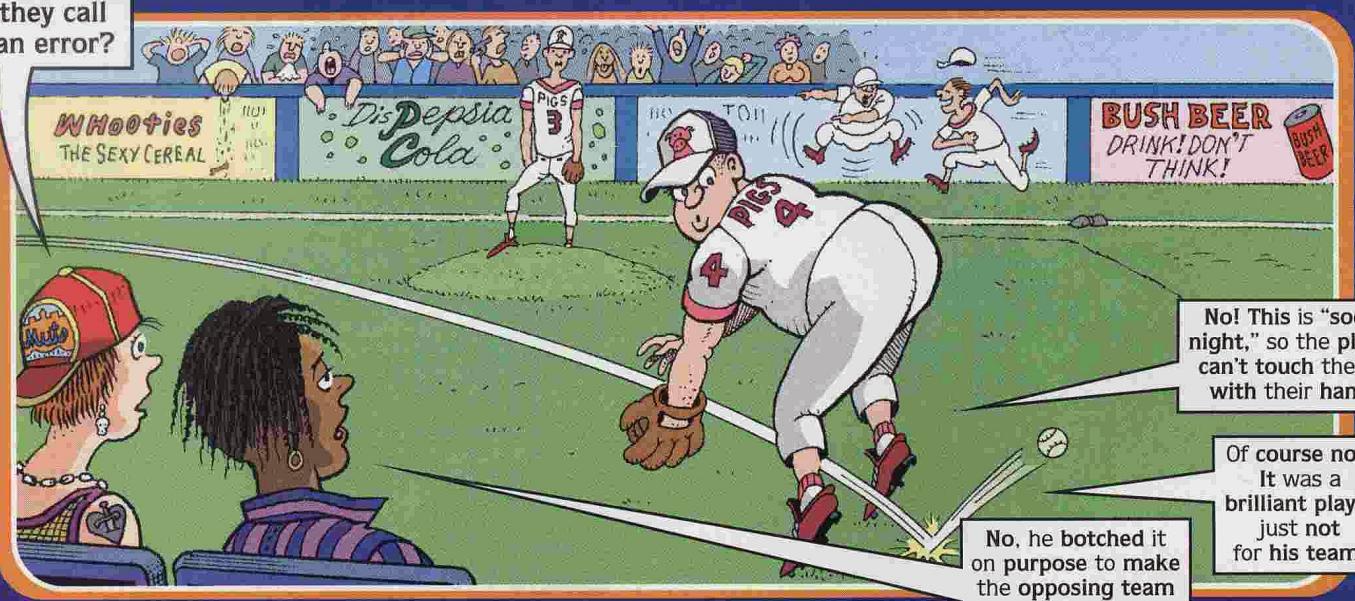


ALL JAFFEE DEPT.

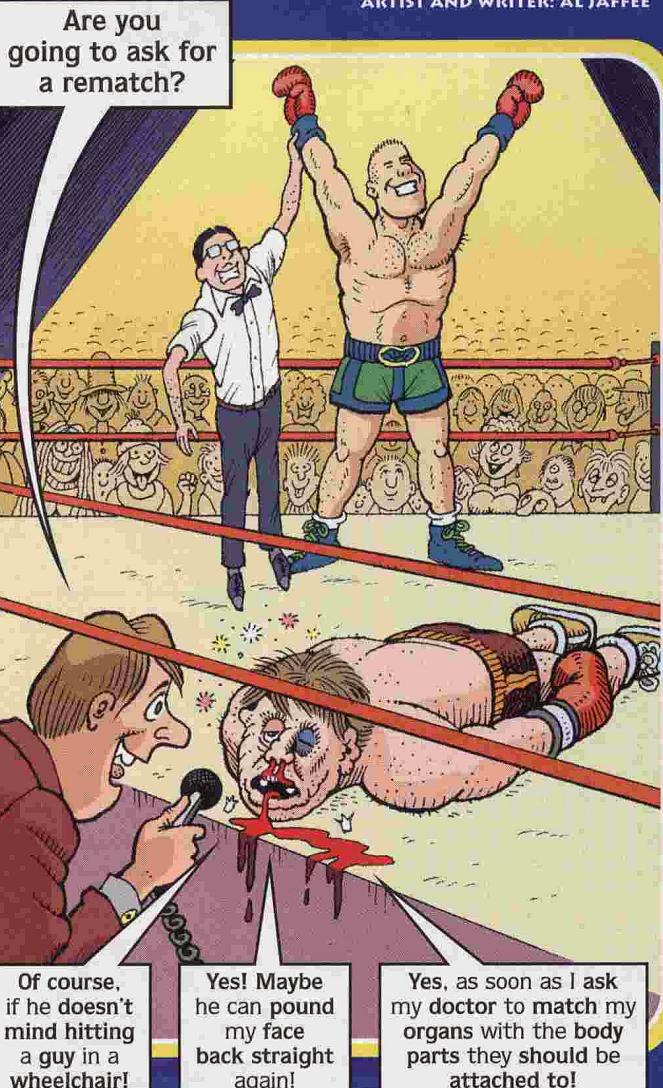
GOOD LORD!  
IT'S YET ANOTHER  
RIDICULOUS  
EPISODE OF...

# SNAPPY ANSWERS TO

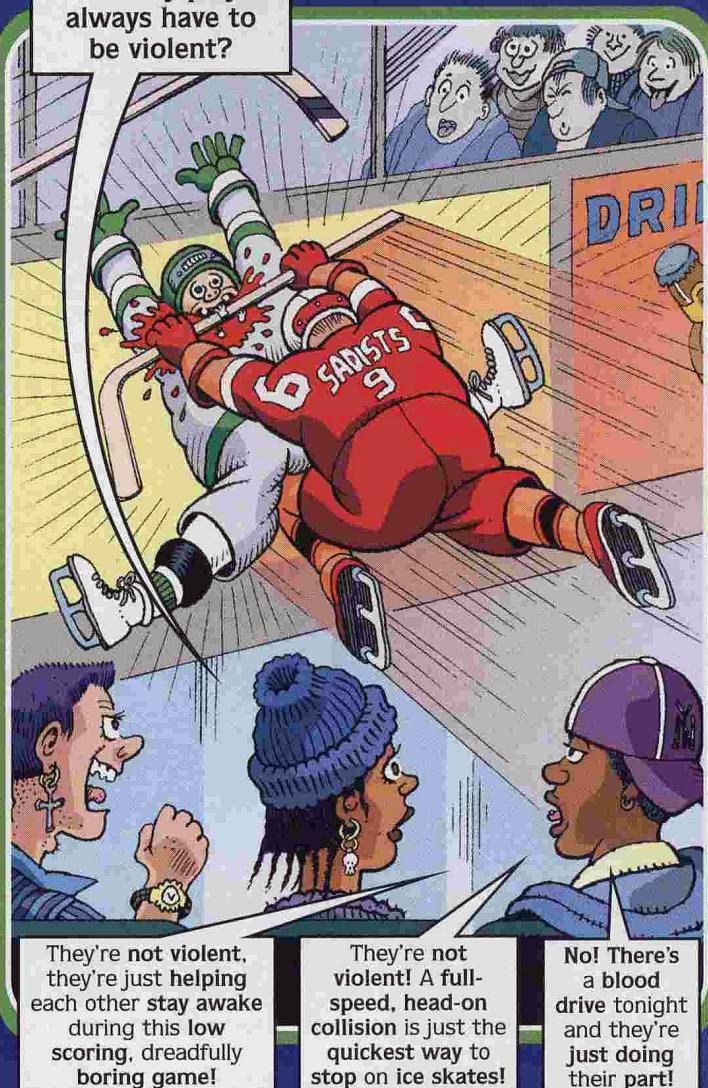
Will they call  
that an error?



ARTIST AND WRITER: AL JAFFEE



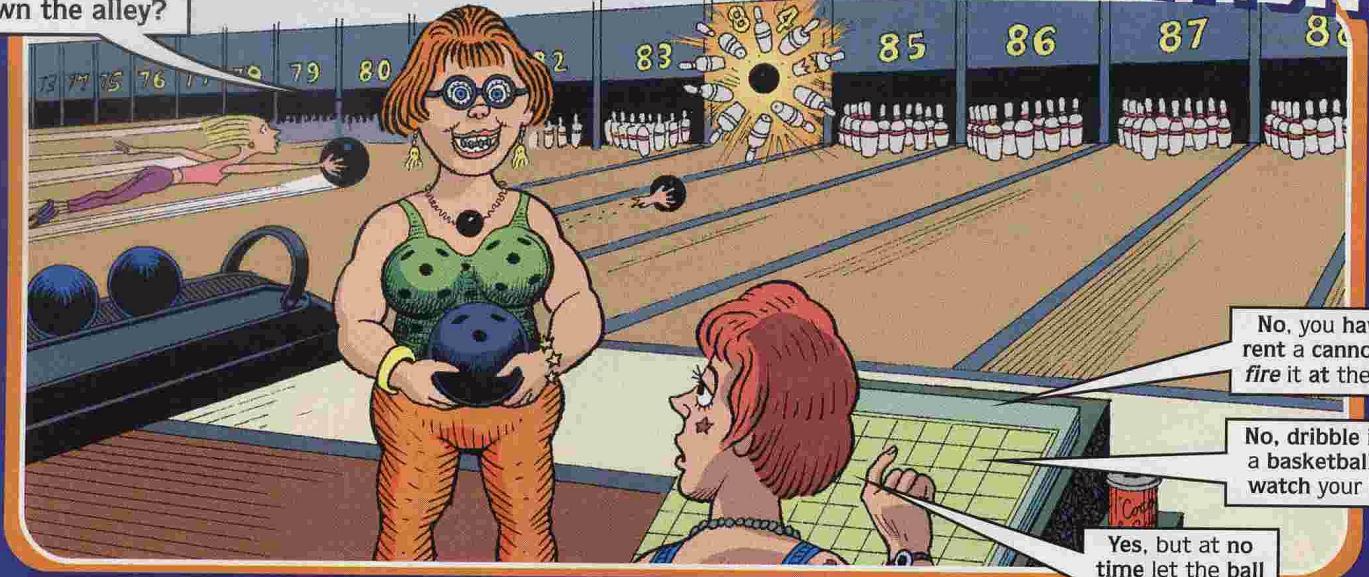
Do hockey players  
always have to  
be violent?



# STUPID QUESTIONS

## SPECIAL SPORTS EDITION!

Do I roll the ball down the alley?



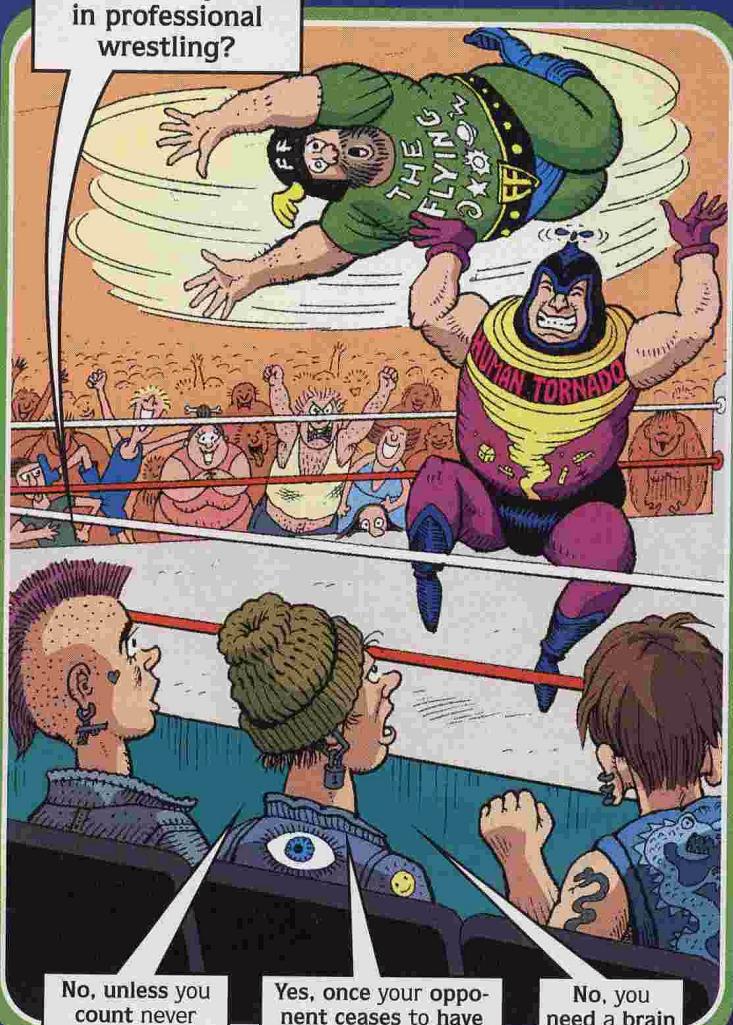
No, you have to rent a cannon and fire it at the pins!

No, dribble it like a basketball, but watch your toes!

Yes, but at no time let the ball leave your hand!

Are there any rules in professional wrestling?

COLORIST: DIGITAL CHAMELEON

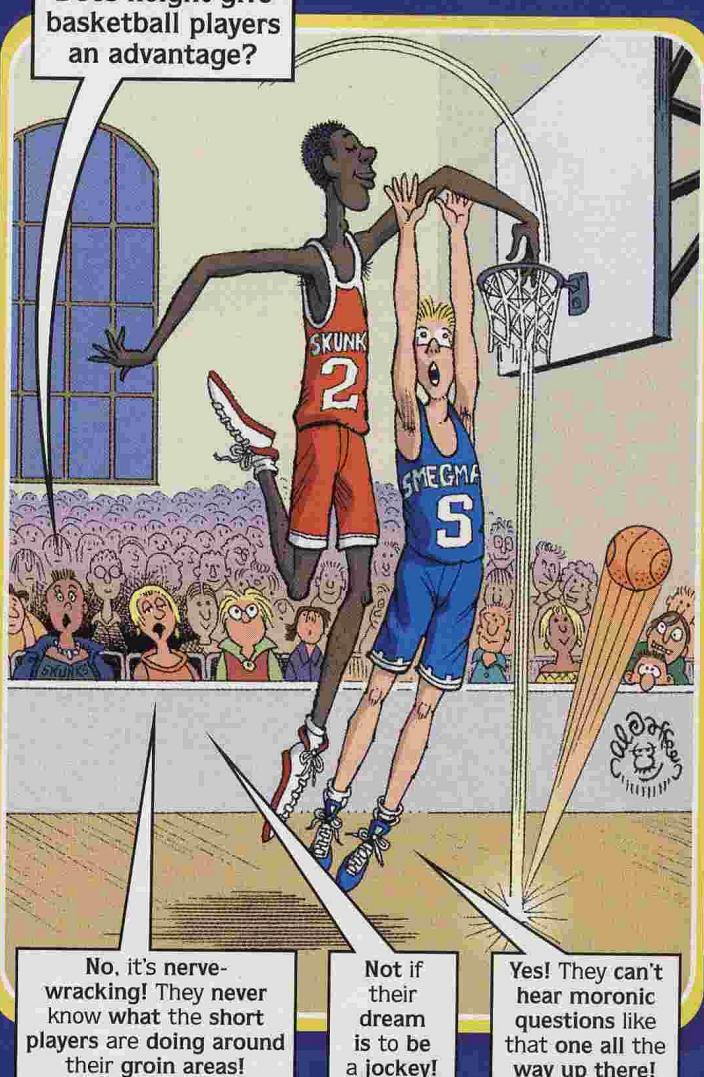


No, unless you count never deviating from the script a rule!

Yes, once your opponent ceases to have a pulse, the match is more or less over!

No, you need a brain to follow rules!

Does height give basketball players an advantage?



No, it's nerve-wracking! They never know what the short players are doing around their groin areas!

No if their dream is to be a jockey!

Yes! They can't hear moronic questions like that one all the way up there!



GRIEVING LAS VEGAS DEPT.

# MAD's CELEBRITY CAUSE-OF-DEATH BETTING ODDS

Our team of crack oddsmakers gives you the latest Vegas line on how one of today's biggest stars will karate kick the bucket!

THIS MONTH'S FUTURE STUNT CORPSE:

## JACKIE CHAN

### CAUSE OF DEATH

Massive eardrum blowout from standing next to Chris Tucker through two movies

Accidentally kicked to death while attempting mid-air sex with actress from *Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon*

Fatally karate chops self in back of head during stunt

Flogged by parents who have to pay medical bills of kids who see his movies and then attempt his stunts

Total exhaustion from making sure his films contain every single cop/buddy movie cliché

Chokes on own tongue attempting line of Shakespeare while filming a Kung Fu version of *Hamlet*

### ODDS

2:1

4:1

10:1

15:1

20:1

25:1



## HOW SHOULD THE MOST CORRUPT BUSINESS EXECUTIVES BE PUNISHED?

## HERE WE GO WITH ANOTHER RIDICULOUS **MAD FOLD-IN**

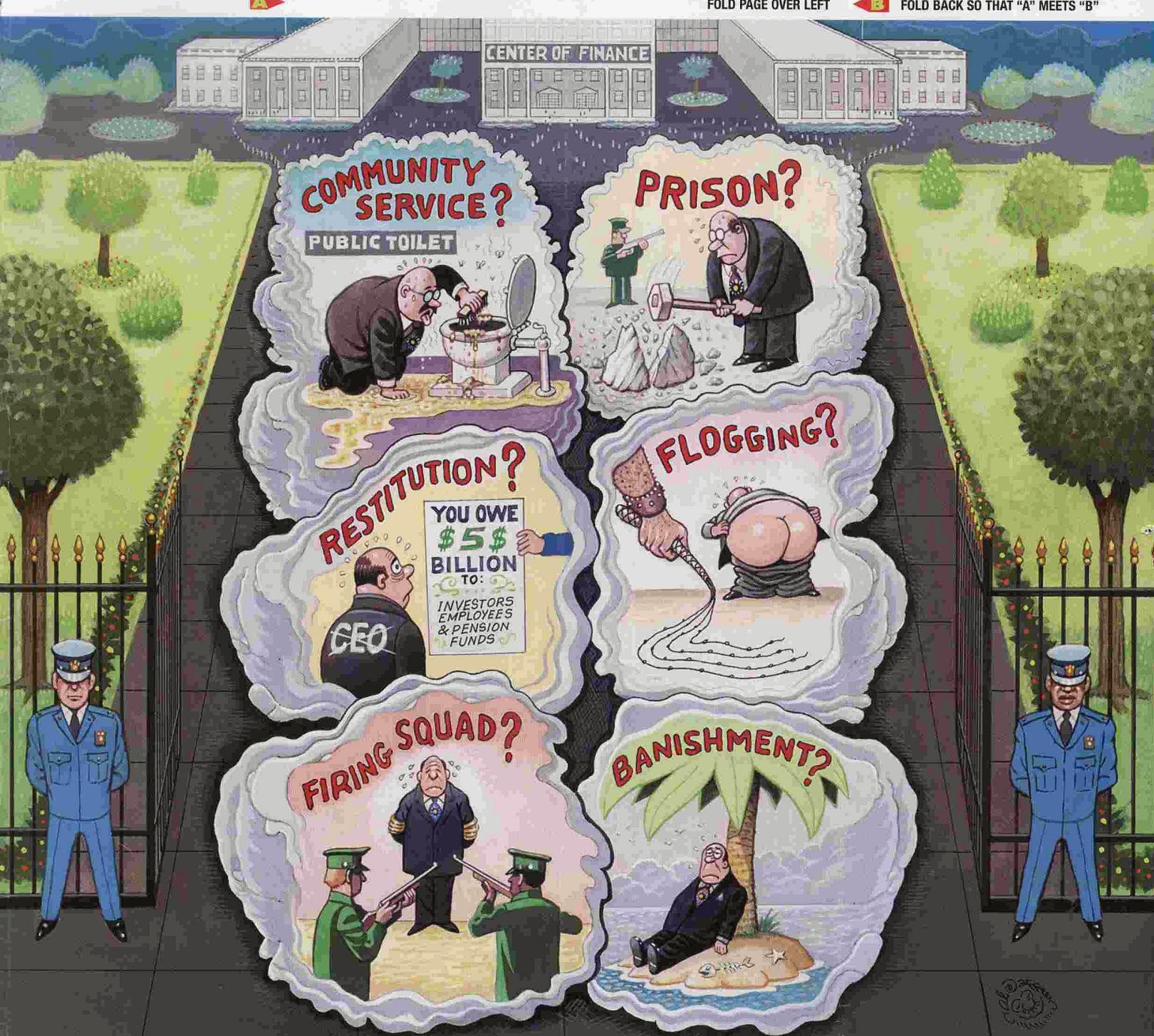
It seems every time we open the newspaper, another executive is being investigated for embezzling money, dumping stock or just being all-around sleazy. It's really getting out of control! How can society put an end to it? What punishment is harsh enough to dissuade the corrupt individuals? To find out what we think is an appropriate punishment, fold page in as shown.



FOLD PAGE OVER LIKE THIS!

FOLD PAGE OVER LEFT

FOLD BACK SO THAT "A" MEETS "B"



MANY BUSINESSMEN ARE CROOKS AND WE'D LIKE THEM RESIDING IN JAIL. THEIR LAWYERS WILL CAMPAIGN FROM EVERY LEGAL ANGLE TO KEEP 'EM OUT. BUT THE BEST THING WE COULD AND SHOULD DO IS PUSH FOR MUCH STRONGER LAWS THAT WOULD ADMINISTER JUSTICE TO EVERY INVESTOR AND CORPORATION

A

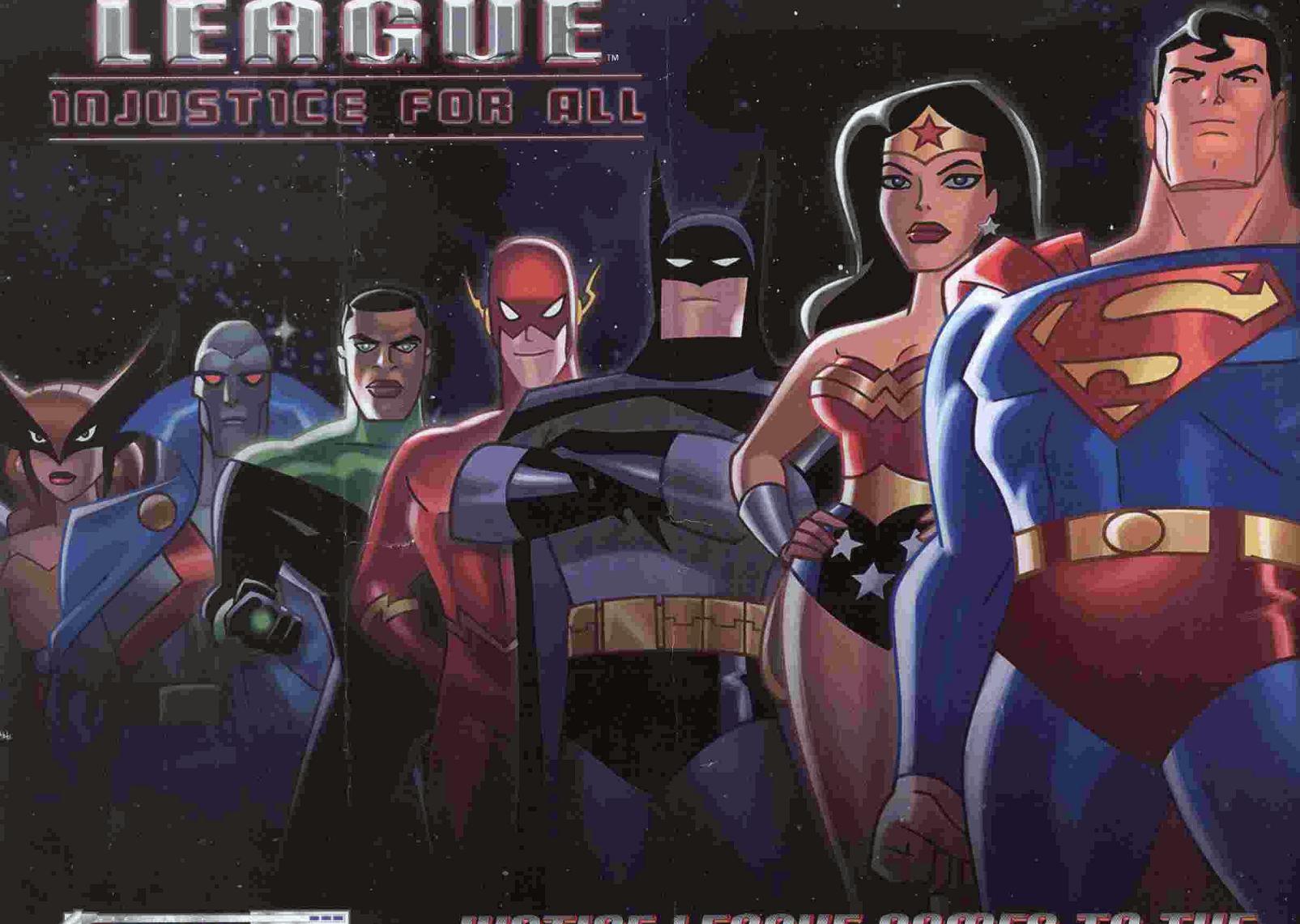
ARTIST AND WRITER: AL JAFFEE

B

# JUSTICE LEAGUE™

INJUSTICE FOR ALL

**MIDWAY**



## JUSTICE LEAGUE COMES TO THE GAME BOY® ADVANCE

When global catastrophe strikes and the world is in peril, the call goes out for the Justice League, the greatest super heroes of all time. Fighting for truth, justice and freedom, *Superman*, *Batman*, *Wonder Woman*, *The Flash*, *Green Lantern*, *Hawkgirl* and *Martian Manhunter* have banded together to fight for the common good against the *Injustice League* in an all-new action adventure title for the Game Boy® Advance. Featuring 12 levels of non-stop action, gamers will overcome dangerous obstacles, an onslaught of villains and discover power-ups on the path to victory!

GAME PREVIEW AT:  
[WWW.JUSTICELIGUE.MIDWAY.COM](http://WWW.JUSTICELIGUE.MIDWAY.COM)



**GAME BOY ADVANCE**

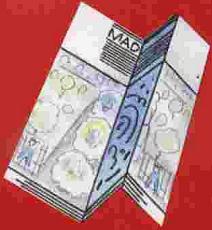
Justice League: Injustice For All video game © 2002 DC Comics and Midway Home Entertainment Inc. MIDWAY and the MIDWAY LOGO are registered trademarks of Midway Amusement Games, LLC. All rights reserved. Distributed under license by Midway Home Entertainment, Inc. TM, © and Game Boy Advance are trademarks of Nintendo.

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WBIE LOGO,™ & © Warner Bros.  
(s02)



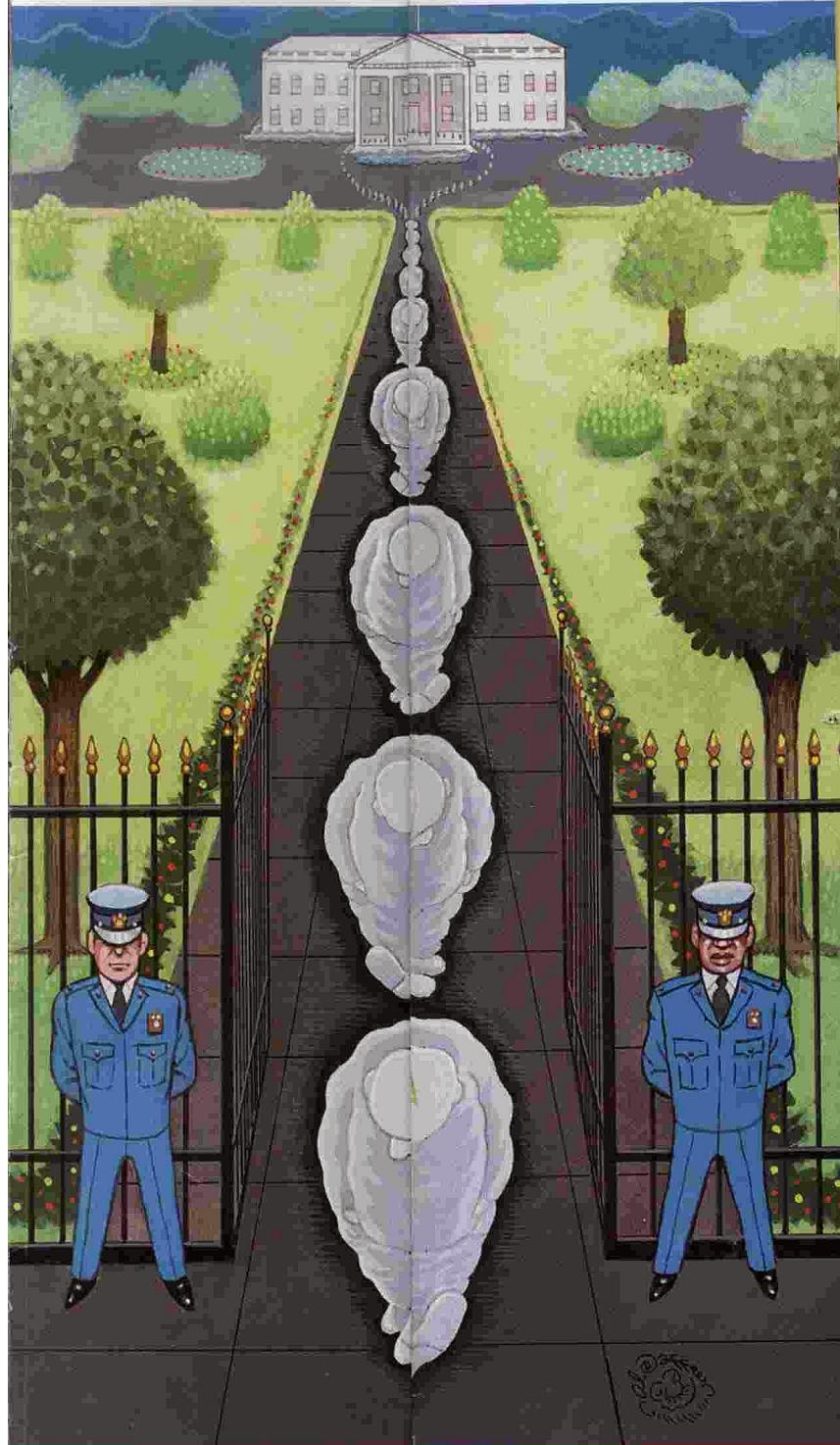
Violence

# HOW SHOULD THE MOST CORRUPT BUSINESS EXECUTIVES BE PUNISHED?



FOLD PAGE OVER LIKE THIS!

A B FOLD BACK SO THAT "A" MEETS "B"



MAIKE THEM  
RESIGN  
FROM THE  
B'USH  
ADMIN-  
ISTRATION

A B